Chapter 4

SECURITY OPERATIONS

"Skepticism is the mother of security. Even though fools trust their enemies, prudent persons do not. The general is the principal sentinel of his army. He should always be carefull of its preservation and see that it is never exposed to misfortune."

Frederick the Great

Security operations obtain information about the enemy and provide reaction time, maneuver space, and protection to the main body. Security operations are characterized by aggressive reconnaissance to reduce terrain and enemy unknowns, gaining and maintaining contact with the enemy to ensure continuous information, and providing early and accurate reporting of information to the protected force.

Security operations include the following missions:

- Screen.
- Guard.
- Cover.
- Area security.

CONTENTS

		PAGE
Section I.	Purpose and Fundamentals	4-3
Section II.	Screen	4-5
Section III.	Guard	4-21
Section IV.	Cover	4-32
Section V.	Area Security	4-40

Security operations may be considered in terms of the degree of security provided and the amount of combat power required to perform them. Cavalry troops screen. The squadron performs screen and guard. Covering force operations are normally an armored cavalry regiment mission. Separate brigades or task organized divisional brigades may perform cover as well.

Cavalry units perform security operations as organized or reinforced. Reinforcements may include tank and mechanized infantry units, attack helicopter units, combat support units, and close air support. The nature of the security mission performed determines what reinforcements are needed. During security missions, squadrons and troops may perform reconnaissance and offensive, defensive, and retrograde operations. Integrated air and ground troop operations provide increased depth, flexibility, and responsiveness in performing these missions.

Security is an essential part of all offensive and defensive operations. Cavalry provides security for the commander along an exposed front, flank, or rear of the main body where a threat may exist. Security along a common boundary with another friendly unit is the responsibility of the unit assigned to that zone or sector. Some cavalry units may perform security missions as part of a larger security force. In division cavalry, sustained security operations require the entire squadron. Fragmenting the squadron to provide security in multiple directions simultaneously should be avoided.

Surveillance is continuous during security operations. Even during security missions that involve fighting the enemy, the scouts' primary task remains gathering information. Scouts do this by establishing observation posts (OP), conducting patrols, and performing reconnaissance. Air and ground scouts are coordinated to synchronize their complementary capabilities.

Counterreconnaissance is an inherent task in all security operations. Counterreconnaissance is the sum of actions taken at all echelons to counter enemy reconnaissance and surveillance efforts through the depth of the area of operations. It is active and passive and includes combat action to destroy or repel enemy reconnaissance elements. It also denies the enemy information about friendly units.

Counterreconnaissance keeps enemy reconnaissance forces from observing the main body by defeating or blocking them. In the execution of counterreconnaissance, cavalry operates either offensively or defensively using whichever tactics best accomplish the task. Hasty attack, ambush, and indirect fires are the principal techniques used. Cavalry must be organized to defeat enemy reconnaissance forces without requiring reinforcement. Enemy reconnaissance capabilities in any given situation must be compared to the cavalry unit's capabilities to determine if additional maneuver or combat support assets are required.

Liaison with the protected force is critical during security missions. This ensures both the security force and the protected force remain abreast of the full situation and maintain synchronized operations. This is most significant during flank and rear guard operations when the security force and the protected force are oriented in different directions. The security force accomplishes this task with liaison officers.

Section I. Purpose and Fundamentals

PURPOSE

Cavalry performs security missions to provide information about the enemy and terrain and to preserve the combat power of friendly forces. Cavalry provides information about the size, composition, location, and direction of movement of enemy forces. Cavalry provides information about terrain to facilitate the movement or maneuver of other forces. Reaction time and maneuver space gained by this information allow the main body commander to prepare or to deploy to engage the enemy. Security prevents the main body from being surprised by the enemy. This allows the commander to preserve the combat power of maneuver forces to be concentrated at the point of decision.

FUNDAMENTALS

Successful security operations are planned and performed with five fundamentals in mind:

- Orient on the main body.
- Perform continuous reconnaissance.
- Provide early and accurate warning.
- Provide reaction time and maneuver space.
- Maintain enemy contact.

Orient on the Main Body

The security force operates at a specified distance between the main body and known or suspected enemy units. If the main body moves, the security force must also move. The security force commander must know the scheme of maneuver of the main body and maneuver as necessary to remain between it and the enemy. The value of terrain occupied by the security force lies in the protection it provides to the main body commander.

Perform Continuous Reconnaissance

Security is active. The security force performs continuous, aggressive reconnaissance to gain all possible information about the enemy and terrain. Security comes in large part from knowing everything about the enemy and terrain within the assigned area of operations. (For further information concerning the doctrinal frontages / distances of armored cavalry units in conjunction with security operations, refer to FM 17-97 and FM 17-98.) Surveillance and patrolling required in security

use the same techniques as in reconnaissance. The security force commander must know what the terrain will allow both the enemy and his own forces to do. If the security mission involves movement, reconnaissance is necessary for both the squadron and the main body.

Provide Early and Accurate Warning

Information is security. Early warning of enemy activity provides the main body commander the time and information needed to retain the tactical initiative and to choose the time and place to concentrate against the enemy. Ground scouts and aeroscouts are positioned to provide long-range observation of expected enemy avenues of approach and are reinforced with electronic surveillance devices when available. Flexibility and depth are built into the surveillance plan.

Provide Reaction Time and Maneuver Space

This fundamental embraces the intent of security operations. The security force operates as far from the main body as possible, consistent with the factors of METT-T. This distance provides the reaction time and maneuver space required by the main body commander. It fights, as necessary, to ensure adequate time and space for the main body commander to maneuver and concentrate forces to meet the enemy.

Maintain Enemy Contact

Unless otherwise directed, contact once gained is not broken. Contact does not have to be maintained by the individual scout who first makes it. The security force maintains contact as a whole. Continuous information on the enemy's activities must be gathered, and he must be prevented from endangering other friendly forces. This requires—

- Continuous visual contact.
- The ability to use direct and indirect fires.
- Maintaining freedom to maneuver.
- Depth.

Section II. Screen

The primary purpose of a screen is to provide early warning to the main body. Based on the higher commander's intent and the screen's capabilities, it may also destroy enemy reconnaissance and impede and harass the enemy main body with indirect and/or direct fires. Screen missions are defensive in nature and largely accomplished by establishing a series of observation posts and conducting patrols to ensure adequate surveillance of the assigned sector. The screen provides the protected force with the least protection of any security mission. This mission is appropriate when operations have created extended flanks, when gaps exist between major subordinate maneuver units that cannot be secured in force, or when required to provide early warning over gaps that are not considered critical enough to require security in greater strength. This permits the main body commander to maximize the security effort where contact is expected.

Squadrons normally perform a screen with organic assets. Engineers may be available for specific tasks. For division cavalry, direct support artillery may be designated. The squadron operates within the range of main body artillery for access to indirect fire support. An air or ground cavalry troop from the divisional cavalry squadron, armored or light, may be under the operational control of or attached to a brigade to perform a screen in support of brigade operations. When this occurs the troop should receive direct support artillery.

The armored cavalry regiment as a whole is seldom assigned a screen mission. However, squadrons within the regiment may be required to perform a screen mission as part of a regimental mission. Their organic artillery allows these squadrons to operate at a greater distance from the protected force. To conduct the mission, squadrons will often work in coordination with the regimental aviation squadron or an air cavalry troop (ACT) under its operational control.

Displacement of the screen to subsequent OP positions is event driven. The approach of an enemy force, relief by a friendly unit, or movement of the protected force dictate screen movements. The main body commander does not place a time requirement on the duration of the screen. Doing so may force the screening force to accept decisive engagement.

Because a screen is defensive in nature, a screen may be performed for a stationary force to the front, flank, or rear of the main body. A screen is performed for a moving force to the flank or rear of the main body. A screen mission is not performed forward of a moving force. Zone reconnaissance, movement to contact, or advance guard is more suited for operations forward of a moving force. Figure 4-1 depicts the three locations a squadron may screen a moving force and the four locations a squadron may screen a stationary force.

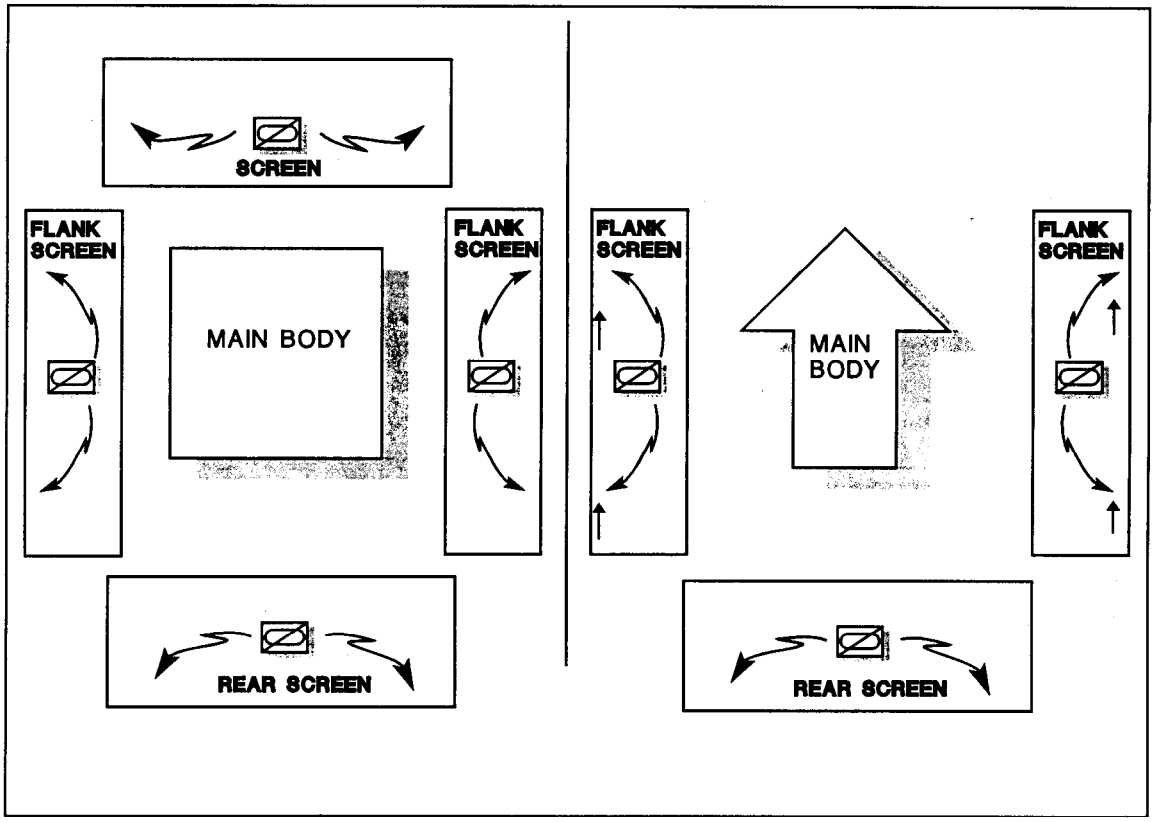

Figure 4-1. Screen locations.

All screens are active operations. Stationary OPs are only one part of the mission. Patrols, mounted and aerial reconnaissance, and relocating OPs on an extended screen ensure that continuous overlapping surveillance occurs. Inactivity in an immobile screen develops complacency.

Depth is important in a screen. The term screen line is descriptive only of the trace along which security is provided. Depth allows an enemy contact to be passed from one element to another without displacing. Depth is advantageous to-

- Destroy an enemy reconnaissance patrol without compromising critical OPs.
- Prevent the enemy from penetrating the screen line too easily.
- Prevent gaps from occurring when OPs displace or are lost.

Depth is achieved primarily by the positioning of OPs, particularly where there are limited avenues of approach. Air scouts, unmanned aerial vehicles, ground- and space-based sensor systems all help create depth in the security zone. Tank platoons and mortar sections set behind the screen establish local security, providing additional surveillance.

Cavalry provides additional depth by ingraining surveillance as an inherent task of every soldier. All soldiers must understand the situation and be attuned to the environment. No vehicle should move, aircraft fly, or position established without soldiers being alert to their surroundings. Any enemy or suspicious activity observed must be reported.

CRITICAL TASKS

A screen mission has certain critical tasks that guide planning. Critical tasks are not a checklist or sequential execution guide. The level to which the critical task can be achieved is dependent on the unit's capabilities. To achieve the intent of a screen mission, the following critical tasks are accomplished:

- Maintain continuous surveillance of all battalion-size avenues of approach into the sector under all visibility conditions.
- Destroy or repel all reconnaissance elements within capabilities.
- Locate the lead company of each suspected advance guard battalion and determine its direction of movement.
- Maintain contact with the lead company of the advance guard battalion while displacing, and report its activity.

STATIONARY SCREEN

Cavalry Commander's Guidance

The main body commander provides the following broad guidance to the cavalry commander.

REINFORCEMENTS

Any unique requirement posed by the mission may require assets not organic to the screening unit. Division cavalry may require reinforcement with additional air-ground maneuver assets. The regimental cavalry squadron may require reinforcement with air assets. Both may require combat support assets.

THE GENERAL TRACE OF THE SCREEN AND THE TIME THE SCREEN MUST BE ESTABLISHED

This trace is indicated symbolically by a phase line placed along identifiable terrain (see Figure 4-2). This phase line considers the amount of early warning, range of indirect fires, and maneuver space desired by the main body commander and is consistent with the limitations of a screen mission. When screening forward of the division or corps main body, this phase line represents the forward line of own troops (FLOT) and may be along or close to a coordinated fire line.

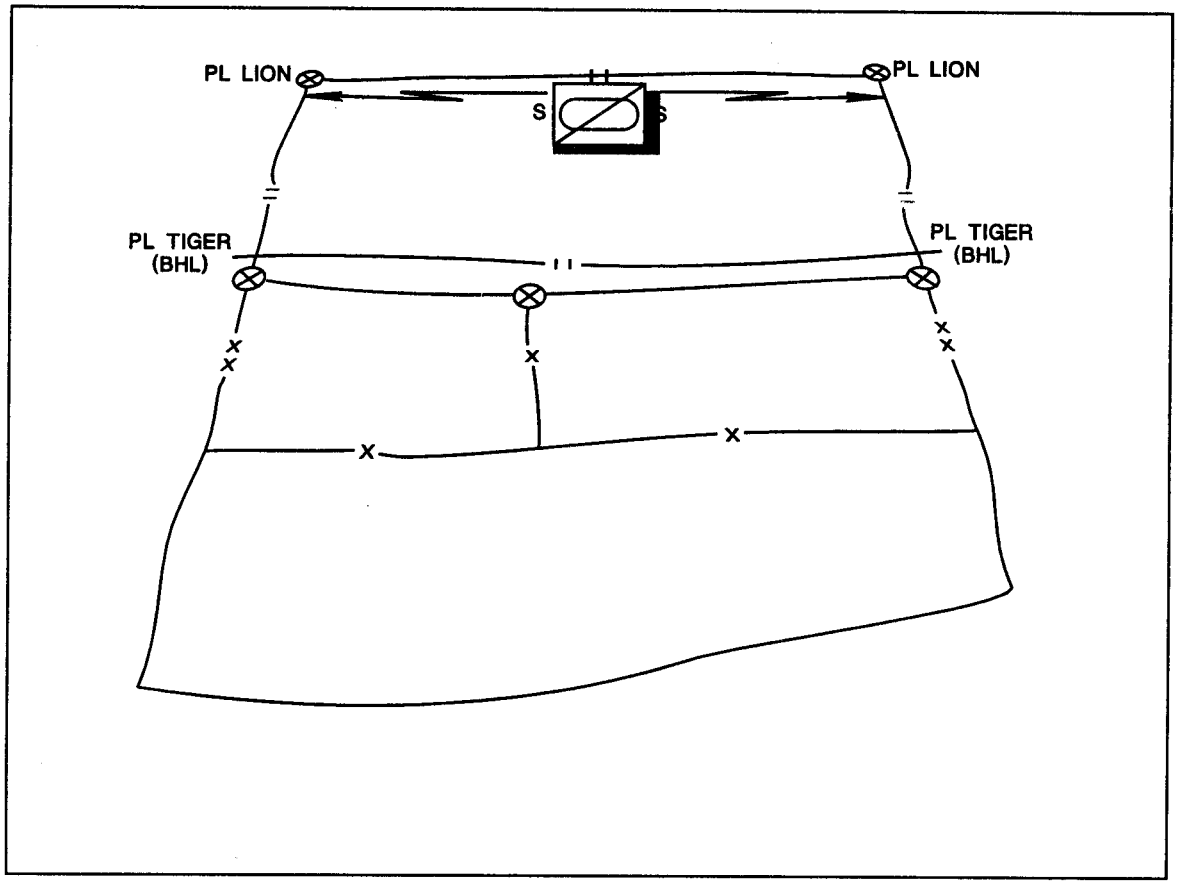

Figure 4-2. Division overlay.

THE WIDTH OF THE SCREENED SECTOR

The tasks required of a screening force are minimal compared to other security missions. Therefore, the screening force may be assigned a wide frontage. The determining factor for the capacity of the squadron is the capability of the assigned scout platoons. (FM 7-92 and FM 17-98 discusses the capabilities of the scout platoon.) If the squadron is required to screen beyond the capacity it can handle, the commander requests ground reinforcement. Careful consideration must be given when assigning air cavalry its own terrain. Limited visibility conditions, limited station time, and weather may affect the air cavalry's ability to cover the zone. It is also important to understand that air cavalry provides depth and flexibility to the security zone and is best used in concert with ground forces.

THE FORCE TO BE SCREENED

The protected force is often indicated by a command and control relationship.

THE REAR BOUNDARY OF THE SCREENING FORCE

The rear boundary of the screening force is depicted as a boundary. Responsibility for the area between the protected force and the screening force rear boundary lies with the screened force (main body). This boundary may also serve as a phase line internally to the squadron. This boundary reflects time and space requirements, clearly delineates terrain responsibilities, and provides depth required by the screening force. The rear boundary may serve as a battle handover line to control passing responsibility for the enemy to the protected force.

ANY SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS AND CONSTRAINTS

Requirements for observing specific named areas of interest (NAI) or target areas of interest (TAI) identified during the IPB are stated. If the screening force is to engage or control engagement of a threat at a TAI, the main body commander provides adequate resources.

Squadron Commander's Considerations

Given the higher commander's guidance, the squadron commander considers the following areas:

THE INITIAL SCREEN LINE

The initial screen line is established by the controlling headquarters (see Figure 4-3). It is placed closer to the main body only with permission of the higher commander of that headquarters. Requirements to observe specific NAI or TAI are considered. This screen line is placed on terrain that allows good fields of observation from behind the line. Because the initial screen line often represents the FLOT, it is considered a restrictive control measure. Coordination is necessary to move beyond the initial screen line to establish an air screen in depth or to perform reconnaissance. A phase line can designate the squadron limit of advance. This forward phase line then becomes the FLOT.

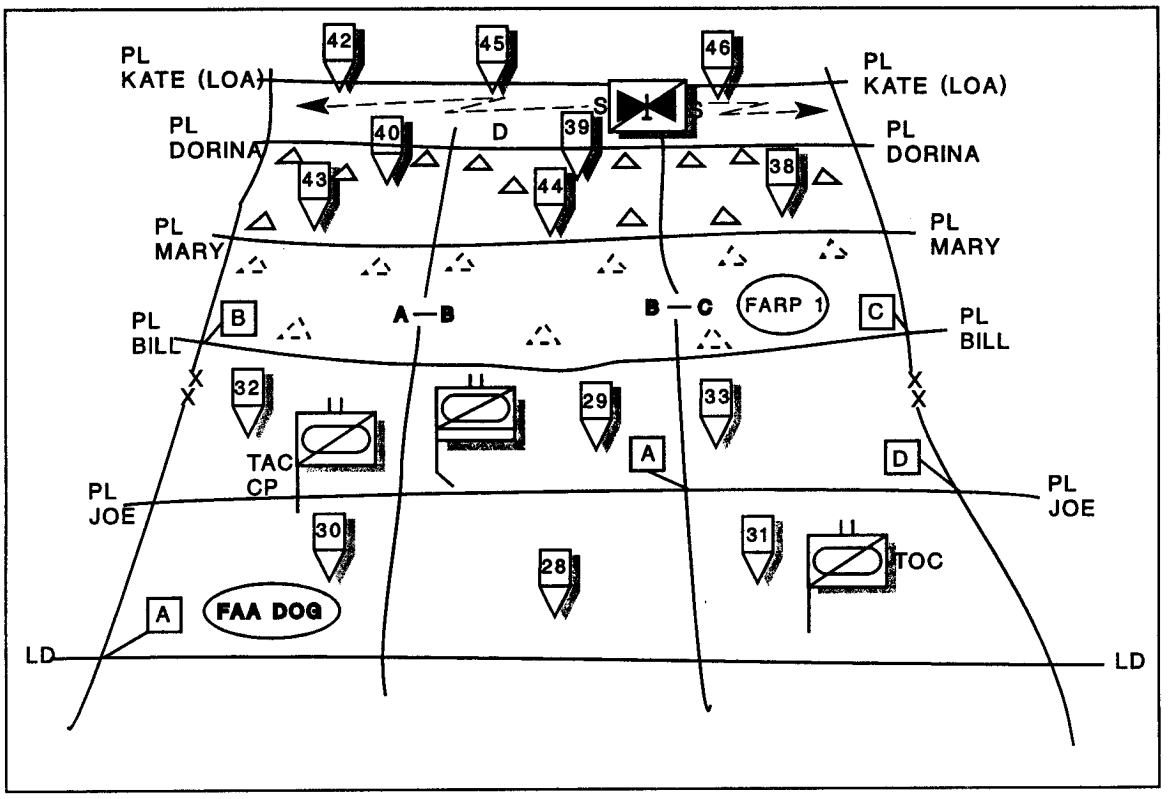

Figure 4-3. Divisional squadron screen.

Limited visibility surveillance requirements and depth are always incorporated in the screen. The initial screen should be within range of the main body's artillery support.

MOVEMENT TO THE SCREEN LINE

Time determines the method of occupying the screen line. Given adequate time, the squadron performs a zone reconnaissance. This clears the sector of any enemy and familiarizes the squadron with the terrain. When time is critical, the screen force performs a movement to contact or a tactical road march to a position just short of the screen line.

CONTROL OF DISPLACEMENT TO SUBSEQUENT POSITIONS

The squadron commander uses additional phase lines to control the operation. Since displacement to subsequent positions is event driven, subsequent phase lines serve to guide the troop commander's initiative during the mission.

SECTORS FOR SUBORDINATE TROOPS

The commander designates sectors for the subordinate ground cavalry troops. Terrain responsibility for NAIs and TAIs goes with the sector. Ground troops are normally deployed abreast. The tank company provides depth for the regimental

cavalry squadron, and the air cavalry provides depth for the division cavalry squadron. Reduced depth is the trade-off when screening extended frontages. When forced to do so, the commander may have to assign terrain to the air cavalry troop. This terrain should not be the high-speed avenues of approach. Plans must compensate for the absence of air cavalry by adjusting ground OPs during limited visibility or bad weather.

AIR AND GROUND INTEGRATION

Air cavalry troops may screen forward of the ground troops to add depth. When doing so, the ACTs should stay with range of the unit's indirect fires, either mortar or tube artillery. During the day or in higher threat environments, the distance between the ACTs and ground troops may be decreased to enhance survivability of the aircraft. The ACTs extend the capabilities of the ground screen (see Figure 4-3). They may screen an exposed flank of the squadron, assist in patrolling gaps between ground OPs on an extended screen, augment the surveillance of NAIs by ground OPs, and add depth within the squadron sector along subsequent screen lines. The concept of battle handover is used within the squadron as air and ground troops displace to subsequent OPs or a FARP. This ensures that the squadron maintains contact with the closing enemy. The use of attack helicopters may be constrained in case they are needed to respond to a rapidly developing situation. The division cavalry squadron commander determines the method of air cavalry employment. The regimental squadron has no organic air assets (see Figure 4-4). The regimental aviation squadron may screen forward of the ground troops, or air cavalry troops may be under the operational control of the ground squadrons. In either case, integrating air and ground assets greatly enhances the effectiveness of the screen.

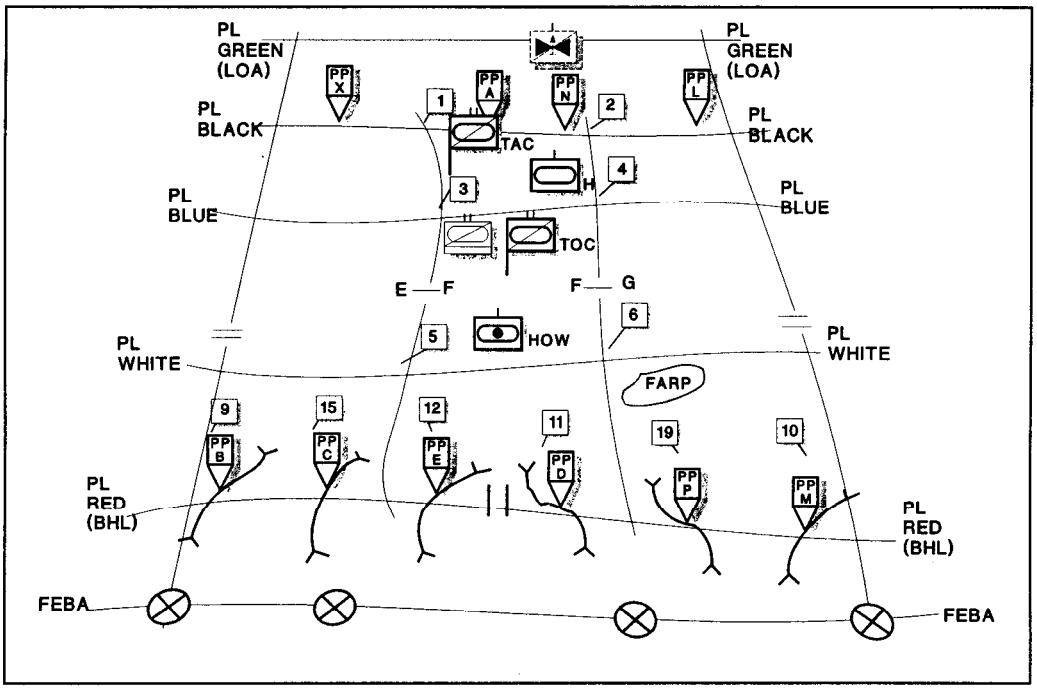

Figure 4-4. Regimental squadron screen.

INDIRECT FIRE PLANNING

Fire planning integrates artillery and mortar fires. Observers cover TAIs. The organic howitzer battery of the regimental squadron provides enhanced indirect fire capability. Its fires are integrated with those of the mortars and any supporting artillery fires. Relationships with supporting artillery for division cavalry are clearly defined with the division fire support element.

MOBILITY AND SURVIVABILITY

Engineers, if attached, may be available for specific tasks. Typical engineer tasks are survivability, improvement of combat roads and trails, and emplacement of situational obstacles. Situational obstacles are obstacles that units plan, and possibly prepare, before beginning an operation; however, they do not execute the obstacles unless specific criteria are met. Therefore, units may or may not execute situational obstacles, depending on the situation that develops during the battle. They are "be prepared" obstacles and provide the commander flexibility for emplacing tactical obstacles based on battlefield development. FM 90-7 provides specific considerations for planning situational obstacles.

POSITIONING OF COMMAND AND CONTROL, CS, AND CSS ASSETS

These assets occupy positions to support extended frontages and remain highly mobile for rapid displacement. Both the TAC CP and the TOC may be required to operate continuously. In the division cavalry squadron, a FARP is placed forward to facilitate rapid turn-around of aircraft. In the armored cavalry regiment, FARPs are positioned by the regimental aviation squadron to best support the screen mission. CSS assets prepare for extended operations as necessary.

Ground Troop Commander's Considerations

The ground troop commander considers the following factors when developing the troop concept. (Also see FM 17-97.)

SCOUT PLATOON SECTORS

The troop sector is divided between the scout platoons to delineate responsibility for surveillance (see Figure 4-5). The nature of a screen normally requires all scout platoons to be deployed abreast. Platoons receive clear responsibility for identified avenues of approach and designated NAIs.

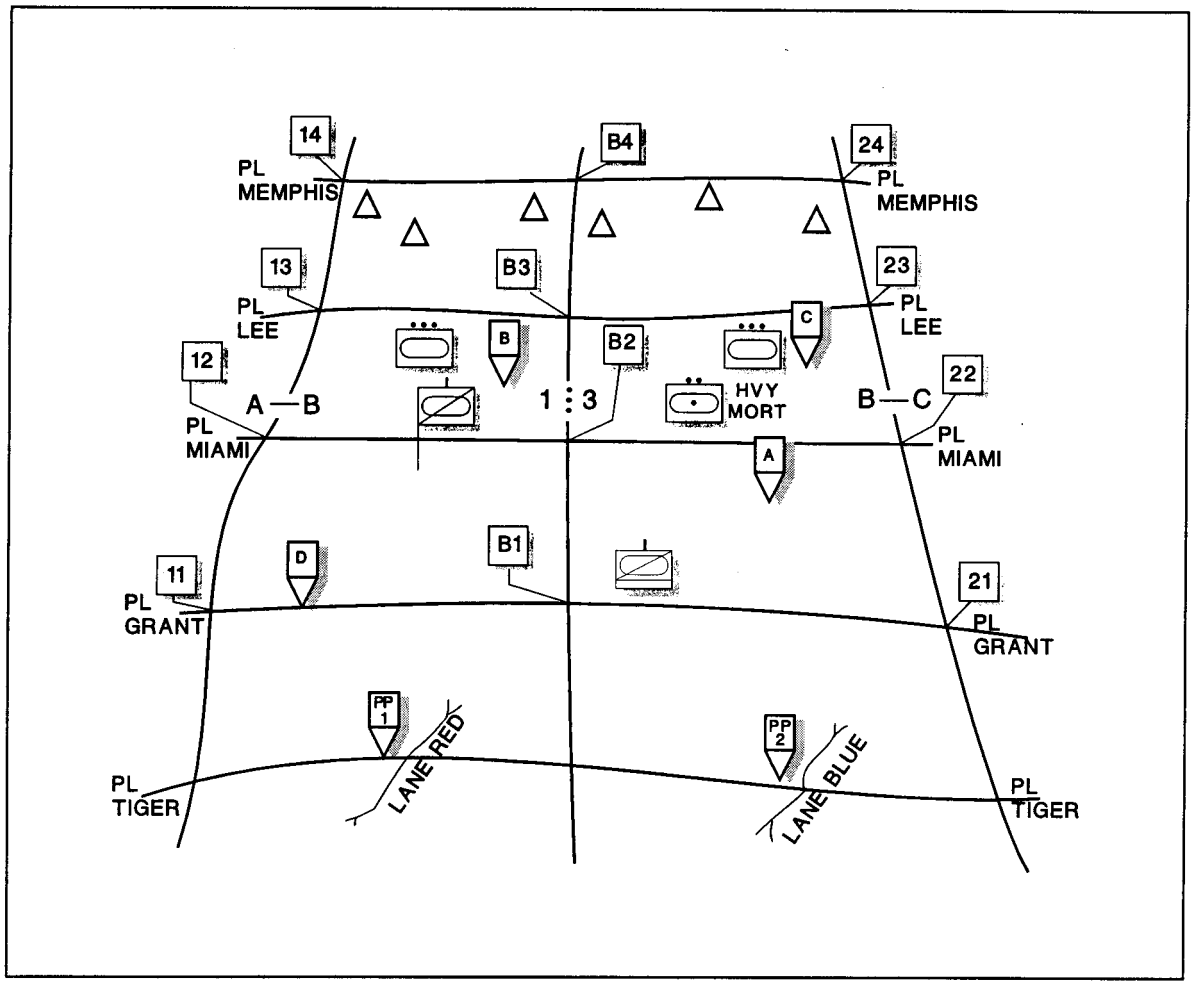

Figure 4-5. Division cavalry troop screen.

TANK PLATOONS

The commander positions organic or attached tank platoons in the sectors of the scout platoons. They may occupy hide or battle positions along avenues of approach. Tank platoons remain responsive to the troop commander. They are the primary direct fire killing asset.

GRAPHICS

Additional control measures and phase lines are added as necessary.

INITIAL OP LOCATIONS

The troop commander determines initial OP locations to ensure effective surveillance of the sector and designated NAIs. The scouts who occupy the OP always retain the responsibility to modify the location to achieve the commander's intent. The OPs are positioned along or behind the initial screen line. OPs are integrated with the indirect fire plan to ensure target reference points can be observed. Positioning forward of the screen line requires coordination. Planning for depth in the screen eases the task of maintaining contact.

PATROL REQUIREMENTS

Patrols may be required to cover gaps between OPs. The troop commander tasks the scout platoon leaders to perform specific patrols.

MORTARS

The troop mortars are positioned to fire up to two-thirds of their maximum range forward of the initial screen line. A wide sector may require the commander to position them to provide effective coverage of the most likely enemy avenue of approach determined by IPB. The troop fire support officer plans artillery fires to adequately cover any gaps in mortar coverage.

POSITIONING OF COMMAND AND CONTROL AND CSS ASSETS

The commander positions himself to observe the most dangerous avenue of approach. The command post establishes a position behind the initial screen line to provide continuous control and reporting during initial movements. After positions have been reestablished in depth, the command post can displace. Combat trains are behind masking terrain close enough for rapid response. They are best sited along routes providing good mobility laterally and in depth.

COORDINATION

The troop commander coordinates his concept with air cavalry troop commanders who may be working the same ground, flank troop commanders, and tank company commanders as appropriate.

Air Cavalry Troop Commander's Considerations

The air cavalry troop commander plans his concept using the considerations in FM 1-116. The following considerations are critical.

AIRCRAFT ROTATION

Based on the rotation method selected by the squadron commander, the troop commander determines methods of rotating aircraft to sustain the aerial screen. He must consider any constraint concerning the use of attack helicopters.

PLATOON/SCOUT WEAPONS TEAM ORGANIZATION

The troop commander organizes platoon/scout weapons teams based on the squadron commander's guidance, the likelihood of enemy contact, size of assigned sector, duration of the mission, and aircraft availability. If large frontages or several avenues of approach need to be covered, the troop commander may break down to the team organization instead of using platoons. When augmented with additional attack helicopters, they may remain immediately available in the forward assembly area or holding area to respond to the troop commander as required or when directed by the squadron commander.

COORDINATION

The troop commander ensures locations of attack helicopters, forward assembly areas, and FARPs are known by all aircrews. The commander closely coordinates his concept with the ground troop commander(s). He must direct particular attention towards OP locations, mortar positions, and scheme of maneuver. Coordinating the air passage of lines when operating forward of ground troops is essential. Understanding the ground troop's plan for displacing OPs is critical. Air troops will initially be forward to provide early warning, and when battlefield events dictate displacement for the ground elements, air cavalry may be required to engage with indirect and direct fires. Air cavalry's ability to use direct and indirect fires to maintain contact and to slow the enemy's rate of advance is critical to mission success.

MOVING SCREEN

The same planning considerations discussed above apply to a moving screen. Emphasis may shift since the main body is moving. The squadron may screen the rear or flank of a moving force. Screening the rear of a moving force is essentially the same as a stationary screen. As the protected force moves, the squadron occupies

a series of successive screen lines (see Figure 4-6). Movement is regulated by the requirement to maintain the time and distance factors desired by the main body commander. Air troops may assume the screen during ground troop movement.

The moving flank screen poses additional considerations. It is similar to the moving flank guard. The width of the screen sector is not as important as the force being protected. The squadron screens from the front of the lead combat element in the main body to the rear of the protected elements, exclusive of front and rear security forces (see Figure 4-7). Combat trains move with the squadron and field trains with either the nearest brigade forward support battalion in the main body (division cavalry), or with the regimental support squadron (regimental cavalry). If either support unit remains behind the original FLOT, the squadron field trains may remain with them.

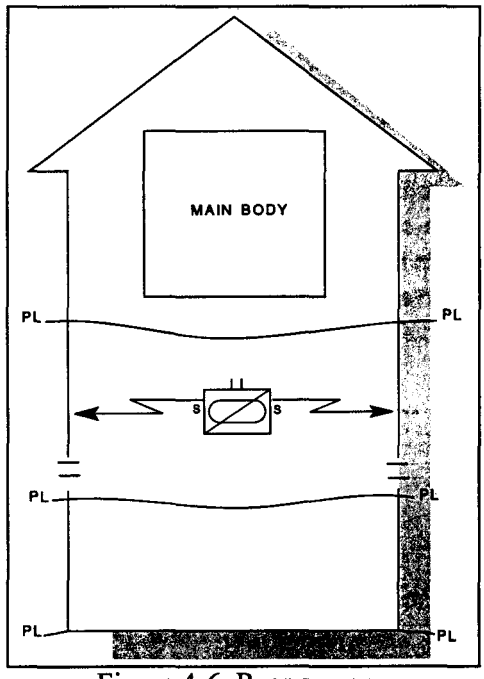

Figure 4-6. Rear screen.

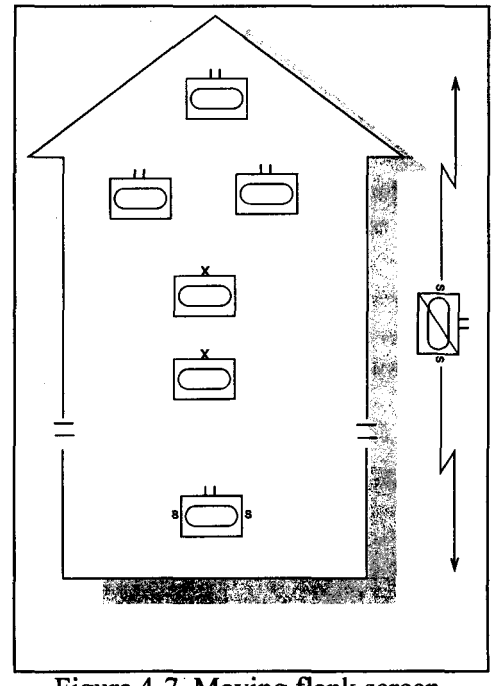

Figure 4-7. Moving flank screen.

There are three basic methods of occupying the screen line. These methods may often be combined.

In the first method, the squadron crosses the line of departure separately from the main body and conducts a tactical road march along a route of advance parallel to the main body (see Figure 4-8). Scout platoons occupy positions along a line of OPs as they reach them. This is the fastest but least secure method. Air cavalry troops are well suited to maintain contact with the main body and to perform reconnaissance forward of the squadron. This method is appropriate when the main body is moving very quickly, the line of departure is not a line of contact, or IPB indicates enemy contact is not likely in the area the squadron is moving through.

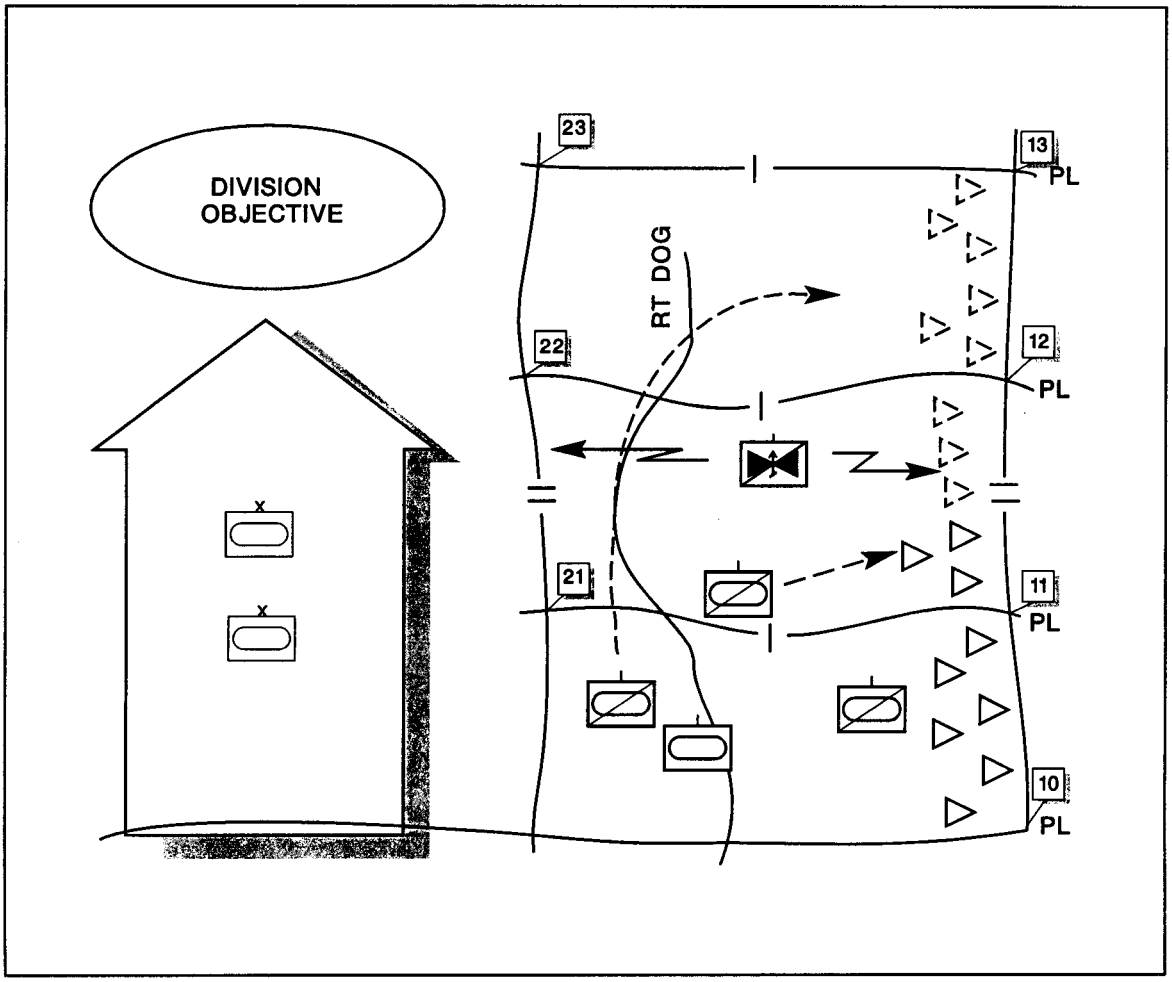

Figure 4-8. Moving flank screen (method one).

In the second method, the squadron crosses the line of departure separately from the main body and conducts a zone reconnaissance forward (see Figure 4-9). Screen positions are occupied as they are reached. This method is slower but provides better security to the squadron. The distance from the screen line to the main body determines the squadron formation used. This method is appropriate when the main body is moving slower, the line of departure is not a line of contact, or IPB indicates enemy contact is possible.

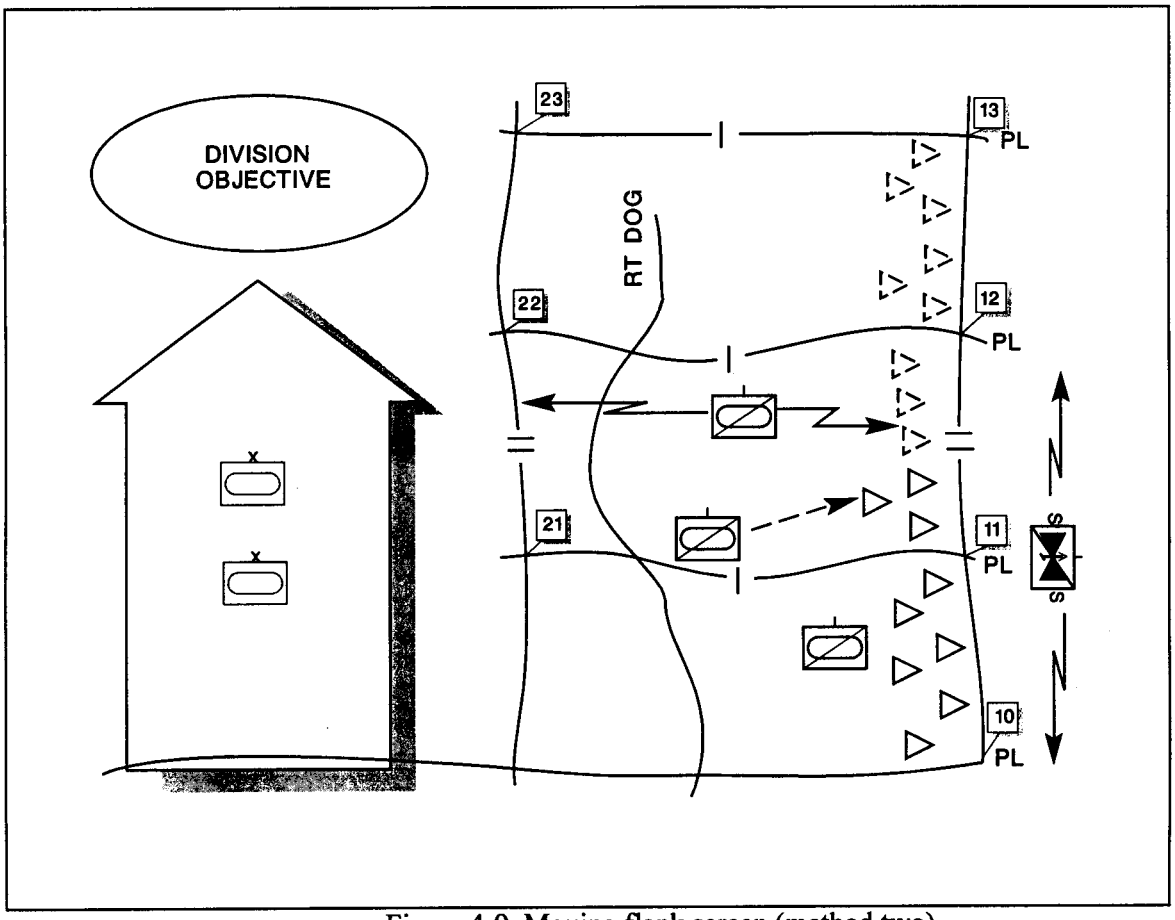

Figure 4-9. Moving flank screen (method two).

In the third method, the squadron crosses the line of departure with the main body and conducts a zone reconnaissance out to the screen line (see Figure 4-10). This method provides the most security for the squadron and the main body but requires more time. This method is appropriate when the main body is moving slowly, the line of departure is the line of contact, or the enemy situation is vague.

Because the squadron moves in one direction but orients in another, command and control is challenging. Control measures must facilitate both orientations. For example, phase lines serve as on-order troop boundaries and do not divide avenues of approach into the flank of the main body. The squadron not only plans for the advance and initial screen but also for a screen in depth back to the main body.

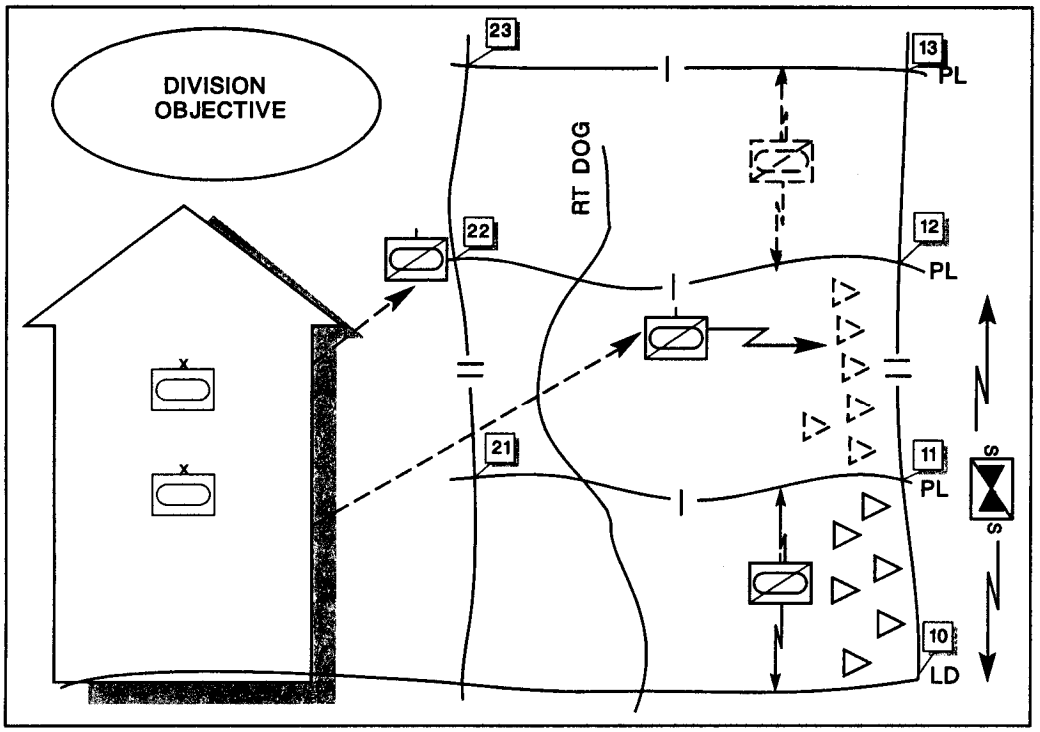

Figure 4-10. Moving flank screen (method three).

Movement along the screen line is determined by the speed of the main body, the distance to the objective, and the enemy situation. Squadron movement centers on a designated route-of advance. This route is parallel to-the axis of advance of the protected force, large enough to accommodate rapid movement of the squadron, and facilitates occupation of the screen line. The route must be kept clear to ensure rapid movement of the cavalry troops. Command and control, combat support, and combat service support assets move off the route when stopping and may move along other routes in depth. Four basic methods of movement may be used:

- Successive bounds.
- Alternate bounds by individual OPs.
- Alternate bounds by subordinate units.
- Continuous marching.

These methods are summarized in Figure 4-11. The squadron may use more than one as the speed of the protected force changes or contact is made.

METHOD	CONSIDERATIONS	ADVANTAGES	DISADVANTAGES
Successive Bounds	Main body slow; By platoon or troop; Contact possible; Simultaneously or in succession; Air screen during ground move	Most secure; Maintain maximum surveillance; Maintain unit integrity	Slowest method; Less secure during simultaneous move; May leave temporary gaps
Alternate Bounds by OPs	Main body faster; By platoon or troop; Contact possible; Bound rear to front	Very secure; Maintain maximum surveillance	Slow; Disrupt unit integrity
Alternate Bounds by Units	Main body faster; By platoon or troop; Contact possible; Bound rear to front	Fast; Good surveillance; Maintain unit integrity	May leave temporary gaps
Continuous Marching	Very fast main body; Perform as route reconnaissance; Contact not likely; Air screen on flank	Fast; Maintain unit integrity	Least secure

Figure 4-11. Methods of screen movement.

LIMITED VISIBILITY

Limited visibility conditions often occur during screen missions. The squadron commanders and troop commanders accommodate the screen to these conditions as they occur. The screen must never be left with gaps when aircraft cannot fly or scouts cannot observe. Ground OPs can be adjusted; night and thermal observation devices employed; electronic surveillance devices and FLIRs (forward looking infrared radar) activated; and trip flares, ground-based sensors, and OPs placed along dismounted avenues of approach. Depth in the screen can facilitate acquisition of enemy forces that may elude forward elements. Patrols are closely coordinated to prevent misidentification and engagement by friendly forces. Rigorous sound and light discipline at night prevents compromise and bypass of OPs by enemy reconnaissance forces. Additional OPs can be established as listening posts to take advantage of the extended distance sound travels at night. Indirect illumination is planned and used as necessary.

Section III. Guard

A guard force accomplishes all the tasks of a screening force. Additionally, a guard force prevents enemy ground observation of and direct fire against the main body. A guard force reconnoiters, attacks, defends, and delays as necessary to accomplish its mission. A guard force normally operates within the range of main body indirect-fire weapons. The main body commander assigns the guard mission when he expects contact or has an exposed flank that requires greater protection than a screen provides. A guard force is deployed over a narrower front than a screen to permit concentration of combat power. The momentum that the enemy attempts to achieve in an attack often forces a screen to transition rapidly into a guard.

The guard mission is normally assigned to a squadron. The multiple requirements of the mission, which must often be performed simultaneously over large areas, require the command and control structure of the squadron. Troops within the squadron perform zone reconnaissance, movement to contact, screen, defend, delay, or hasty attack missions. The guard mission requires the squadron to fight the enemy. To defeat a mechanized enemy force, the squadron requires tanks to mass the necessary combat power required for success. Depending on the threat, the division cavalry squadron may require reinforcement with additional maneuver assets to accomplish the guard mission. The regimental squadron may perform guard missions with its organic maneuver assets only, but integrating air cavalry into the conduct of the mission greatly enhances the squadron's capabilities. Either squadron may be reinforced with additional maneuver company teams when the zone or sector is large. Engineers often reinforce the squadron. Artillery may be provided in direct support to division cavalry. The intent of the main body commander in assigning the mission determines the nature and extent of reinforcement required.

Conduct of the mission is governed by the main body commander's intent. The squadron commander may be given freedom of action or be required to achieve time or event constraints. Permission to withdraw behind the rear boundary is normally required.

A guard may be performed for a stationary or moving force and to the front, flank, or rear of the main body. Planning considerations discussed for the screen apply to the guard. Figure 4-12 indicates the four locations a squadron may guard a moving or stationary force.

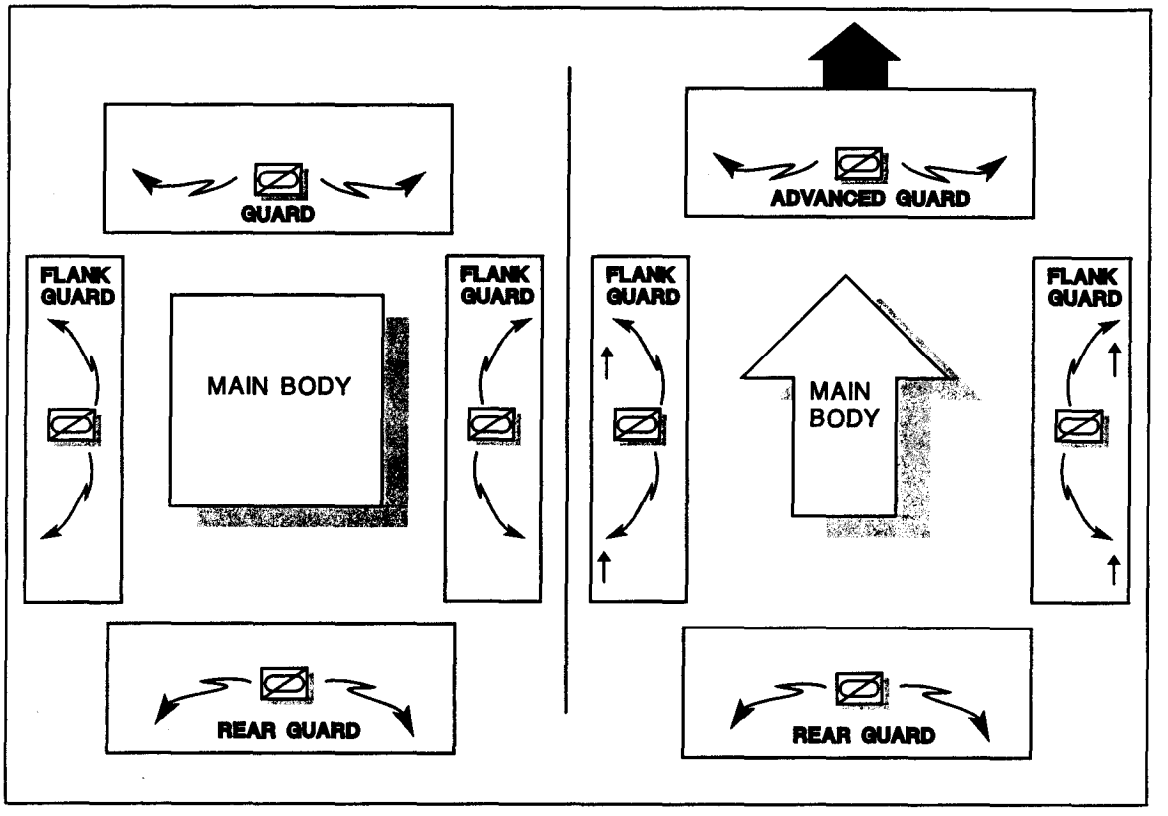

Figure 4-12. Guard locations.

The main body commander provides broad planning guidance (see Figure 4-13):

- Reinforcement of the squadron for the mission. Adequate combat and combat support assets are provided to achieve the commander's intent. Responsive fire support must be ensured.
- The general trace of the guard and effective time, if appropriate. The same considerations that were discussed in Section II, Screen, apply.
- The area of responsibility for the guard force.
- The force to be secured. The squadron commander must understand the concept of the protected force. Location or direction of movement of the force is critical.
- The rear boundary of the guard force. This boundary is placed far enough from the protected force so that the enemy cannot influence the main body without crossing the boundary. The rear boundary serves as the battle handover line to forces in the main battle area.
- Any special requirements or constraints.

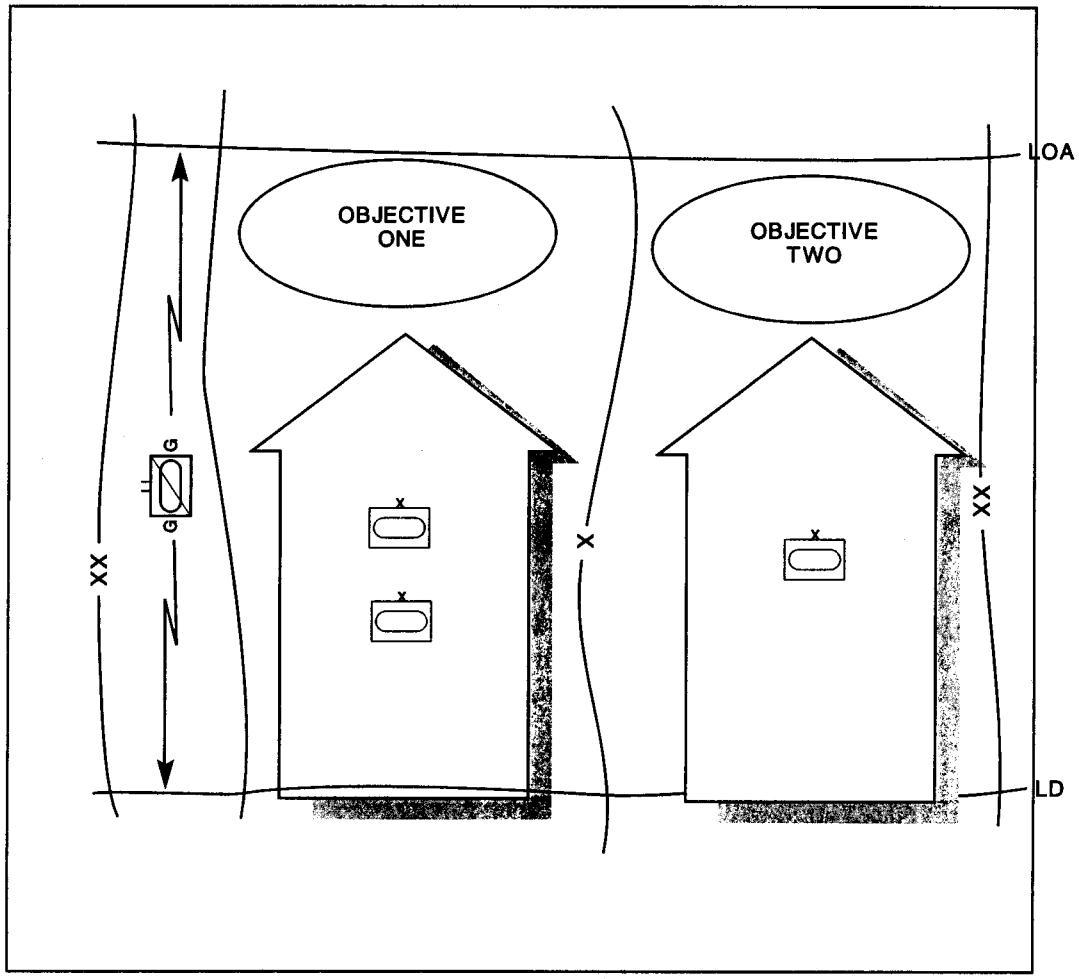

Figure 4-13. Division overlay.

ADVANCEGUARD

An advance guard for a stationary force deploys forward and defends. Once contact is made, the squadron continues to defend in sector or delay consistent with the commander's intent. An advance guard for a moving force is offensive in nature, finding and defeating enemy units along the axis of advance. The advance guard provides for the uninterrupted movement of the protected force. The squadron engages in offensive operations as necessary to accomplish the mission. Usually movement to contact as the advance guard would be the squadron mission. If the squadron encounters enemy forces beyond its capability, the squadron defends, continues close reconnaissance, and prepares to pass elements of the main body forward. Should brigades of a division be advancing on widely separated axes, the division cavalry squadron normally moves with the main effort. The supporting effort provides its own security.

An advance guard accomplishes the following critical tasks:

- Perform reconnaissance along the main body's axis of advance.
- Maintain continuous surveillance of enemy battalion-size avenues of approach, when stationary.
- Destroy or repel enemy reconnaissance and security forces.
- Defeat, repel, or fix enemy ground forces before they can engage the main body with direct fire.

The squadron commander clarifies, with the protected force commander, the interval to be maintained between the advance guard and the main body. The squadron is not tied to the protected force. Rather, it leads the main body within the intent of the commander. Through reconnaissance pull, the squadron guides the main effort to take advantage of opportunities (see Figure 4-14). The commander considers the following:

- Missions for subordinate troops. Subordinate troops of the squadron are normally assigned zone reconnaissance or movement to contact missions. Existing knowledge of the terrain or enemy situation, speed of advance of the main body, and nature of the main body objective may determine which mission is assigned.

- Missions for attached company teams or tank company. In division cavalry, attached company teams are best employed as a reserve by the squadron commander. They generally follow center of zone but remain responsive to shift rapidly wherever required. They can be used to develop the situation, destroy enemy bypassed by the troops, or support cavalry troops that become decisively engaged. In a wide zone, a company team may receive a zone and perform a movement to contact. In the regimental squadron, the tank company is the reserve to perform these missions.

- Zones for subordinate troops. Missions assigned influence the size of zones for the subordinate troops. A movement to contact normally has a narrower zone than a zone reconnaissance to allow adequate concentration of combat power. Ground troops are normally deployed abreast to cover the axis of advance or zone of the protected force.

- Air and ground integration. Air cavalry troops may perform reconnaissance forward of the ground troops or screen an exposed flank of the squadron. Additionally, they reconnoiter terrain that is hard to reach with ground troop vehicles. Other considerations discussed for the screen apply.

- Fire support planning. Providing adequate indirect fire support may require the protected force to position artillery well forward in the main body.

- Mobility and survivability. The possibility of receiving engineer support is increased while conducting a guard mission. Typical engineer tasks in support of a guard mission resemble those of a defense in sector: emplace

tactical obstacles, dig survivability positions, and plan the emplacement of situational obstacles.

- Positioning command and control, combat support, and combat service support assets. Considerations that apply to reconnaissance may be used. Combat trains move with the squadron. Division cavalry field trains normally move with the forward support battalion of a brigade in the main body. If the forward support battalion does not accompany the main body, the squadron's field trains normally remain behind as well. Regimental squadron field trains may be echeloned in depth, move with the regimental support area, or move within the main body.

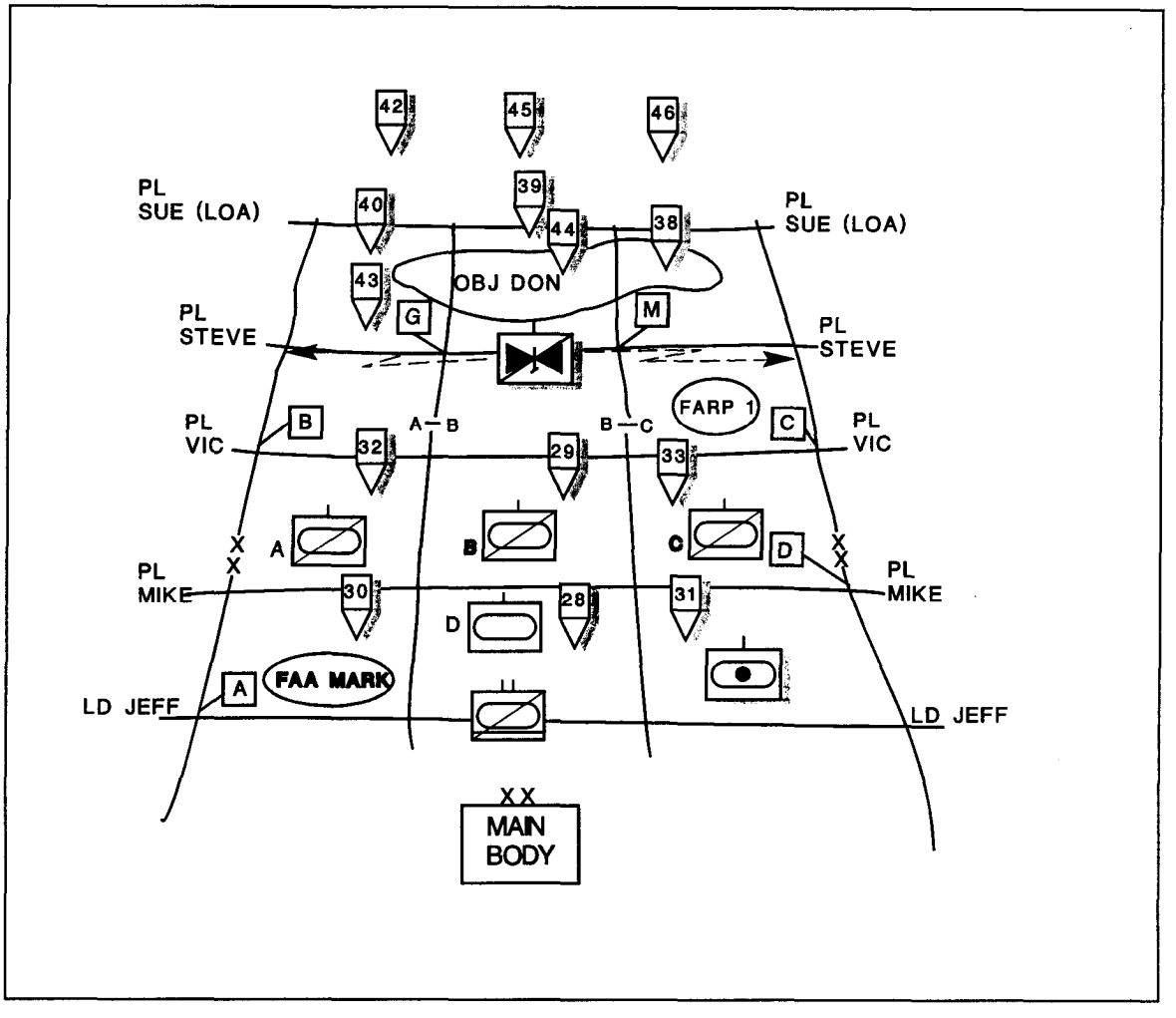

Figure 4-14. Advance guard (regimental cavalry squadron).

The ground troop commander plans his mission as he would a zone reconnaissance or a movement to contact. The hasty attack is a likely contingency he prepares to execute.

The air cavalry troop commander plans his mission as he would a zone reconnaissance or a screen if placed on a flank of the squadron.

FLANK GUARD

A flank guard protects an exposed flank of the main body. A squadron can guard one flank of a division-size force. In performing this mission, the squadron operates beyond the assigned zone or sector of the protected force. Normally, the flank guard's responsibility begins at the trail element of the advance guard or the lead combat element in the main body and ends at the rear of the protected force or lead element of the rear guard. The protected force commander clarifies this responsibility as necessary. A flank guard is similar to a flank screen except that defensive positions are planned for as well as scout OPs.

Stationary Flank Guard

A flank guard for a stationary force performs a zone reconnaissance when moving out to the initial security line positions. This allows the squadron to clear the zone and become familiar with the terrain that may subsequently be defended. Upon reaching the initial positions, the squadron establishes a defense (see Figure 4-15). The commander plans the defense or delay in depth from the initial positions. Troop commanders establish defensive positions in assigned battle positions or sectors, establish a screen forward of the positions, and plan defense in depth. Once contact is made, the squadron continues to defend in sector or delay as required. The following critical tasks apply during this mission:

- Maintain continuous surveillance of enemy battalion-size avenues of approach.
- Destroy or repel enemy reconnaissance forces.
- Maintain contact with the main body.
- Defeat, repel, or fix enemy ground forces before they can engage the main body with direct fire.

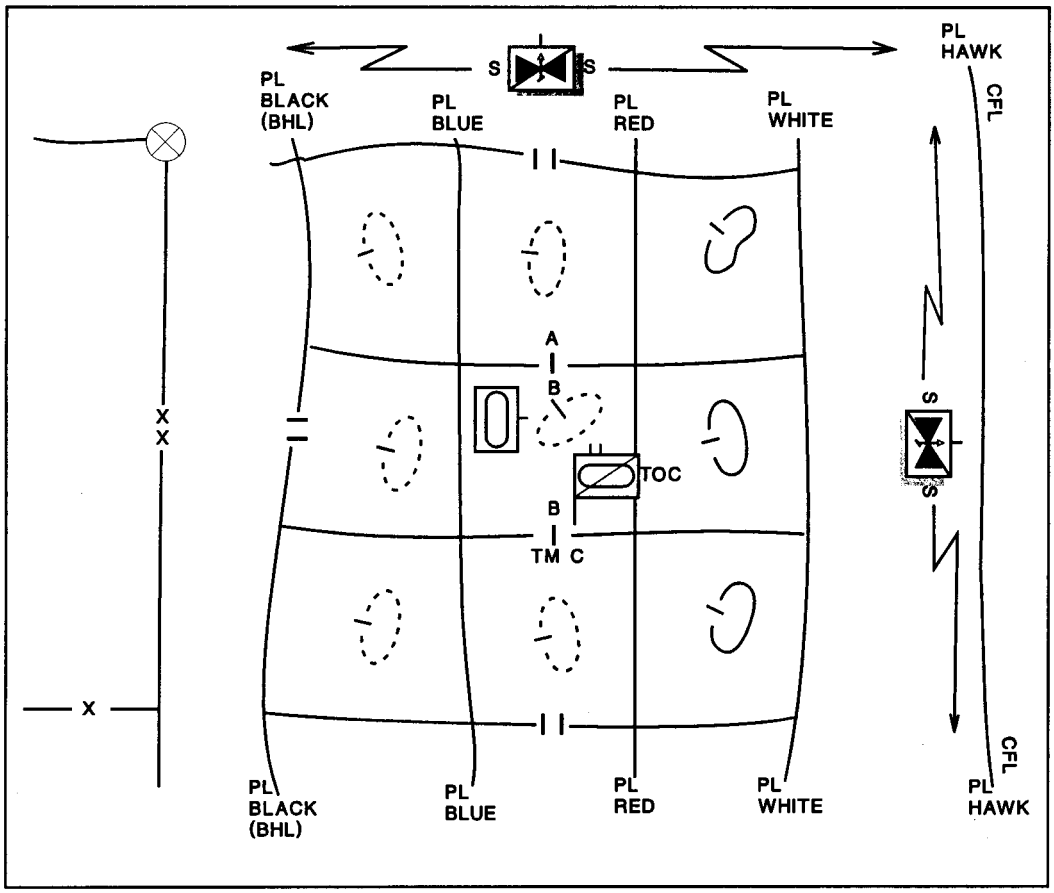

Figure 4-15. Stationary flank guard.

Attached company teams can be used as a reserve or assigned defensive sectors. In a vague situation, the squadron requires a larger reserve than one where the enemy's actions are more predictable. Infantry teams are best employed on close terrain or along dismounted avenues of approach. Tank teams are best along high-speed avenues of approach. A tank company defending may require a task organized scout platoon to establish the screen.

Moving Flank Guard

A moving flank guard poses additional considerations. Many of the considerations for the moving flank screen apply. Instead of occupying a series of OPs, the squadron plans a series of troop battle positions. The following critical tasks are accomplished:

- Maintain continuous surveillance of enemy battalion-size avenues of approach as long as they threaten movement of the main body.

- Reconnoiter the zone between the main body and the guard force battle positions.
- Maintain contact with the lead combat element of the main body.
- Destroy or repel enemy reconnaissance forces.
- Defeat, repel, or fix enemy ground forces before they can engage the main body with direct fire.

The lead troop of the squadron has a critical three-fold mission: to maintain contact with the main body, to reconnoiter the zone between the main body and the squadron route of advance, and to reconnoiter the squadron route. The troop accomplishes these tasks by performing a zone reconnaissance. The speed of the main body determines how thoroughly the reconnaissance is performed. Assistance is required if the zone is too wide for the lead troop. A zone that exceeds 10 kilometers from the guard line to the boundary with the main body generally should not be assigned to the three-fold mission troop. A three-fold mission troop tasked to conduct a zone reconnaissance greater than its doctrinal frontage (10 kilometers) will quickly find itself unable to match the tempo of the main body. When the distance from the guard line to the main body boundary exceeds 10 kilometers, commanders must consider using two troops abreast to ensure the troop maintaining contact with the main body is not overtasked, and can match the tempo of the main body. An air cavalry troop may maintain contact with the main body or a following troop may perform route reconnaissance along the route of advance. The lead troop does not reconnoiter the battle positions or occupy them unless required when contact is made.

The rest of the squadron marches along the route of advance and occupies battle positions as necessary. Criteria for the route are the same as in the moving flank screen. Troop-size battle positions are designated parallel to the axis of the main body, exterior to the squadron route of advance, and along the avenues of approach into the squadron. Follow-on troops reconnoiter these battle positions as they occupy them. Scouts occupy OPs along a screen line forward of the battle positions. Since the squadron is moving in one direction and orienting in another, the squadron commander plans control measures that facilitate this dual orientation. An objective may be assigned for orientation or to secure the flank of the main body objective. An air cavalry troop may assist the lead troop, reconnoiter the line of blocking positions, or screen the flank of the squadron beyond the blocking positions. Attached company teams prepare to occupy battle positions, or they may be used to form a reserve.

The squadron combat trains move with the squadron. Normally, the field trains move with the forward support battalion of the nearest brigade or with the regimental support squadron.

Two methods may be used to initiate the moving flank guard operation. These methods are based on how the main body crosses the line of departure. The squadron

should not make its own penetration of the line of contact when facing prepared enemy defenses. To do so may prevent or significantly delay the squadron in the assumption of the flank guard.

In the first method, the squadron crosses the line of departure separately from the main body and deploys to perform the mission (see Figure 4-16). This method keeps the two forces from intefering with one another and is faster. This method is appropriate when the line of contact has been penetrated by another force or the main body is not in contact with the enemy.

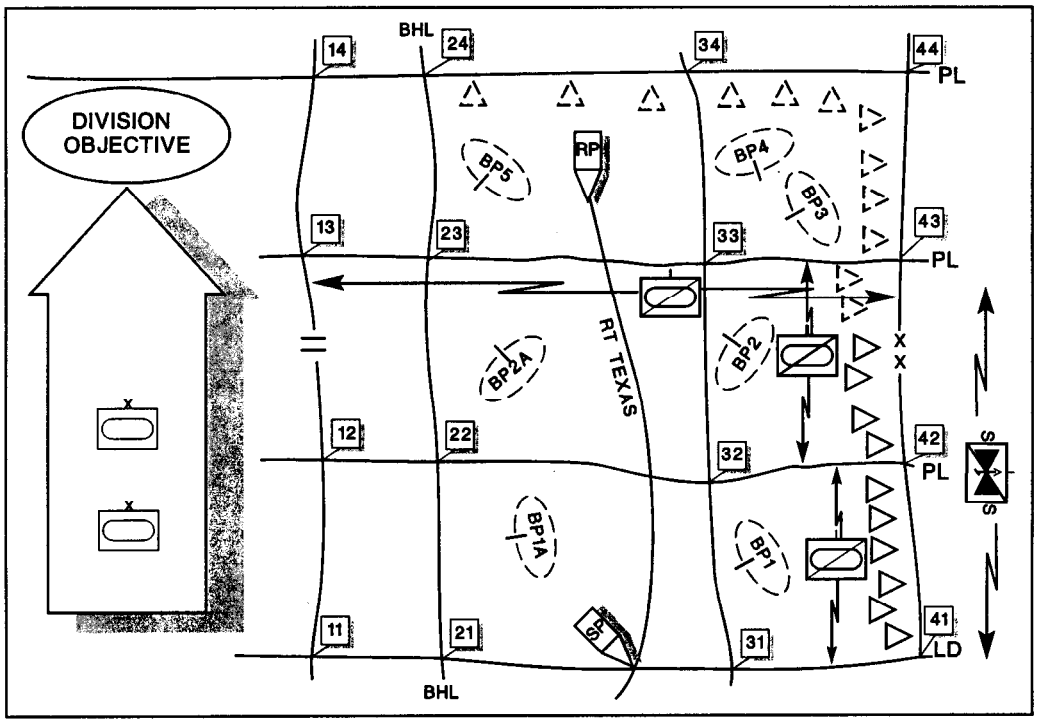

Figure 4-16. Moving flank guard (method one).

In the second method, the squadron crosses the line of departure with the main body and then deploys out into the zone (see Figure 4-17). This method is appropriate when the division makes its own penetration of the enemy defenses along the line of contact. The squadron may follow the lead battalion task force of the division through the gap and deploy when the situation permits. Alternatively, the squadron follows the combat elements of the lead brigade. This method is slower, but provides security for the squadron before assuming the flank guard.

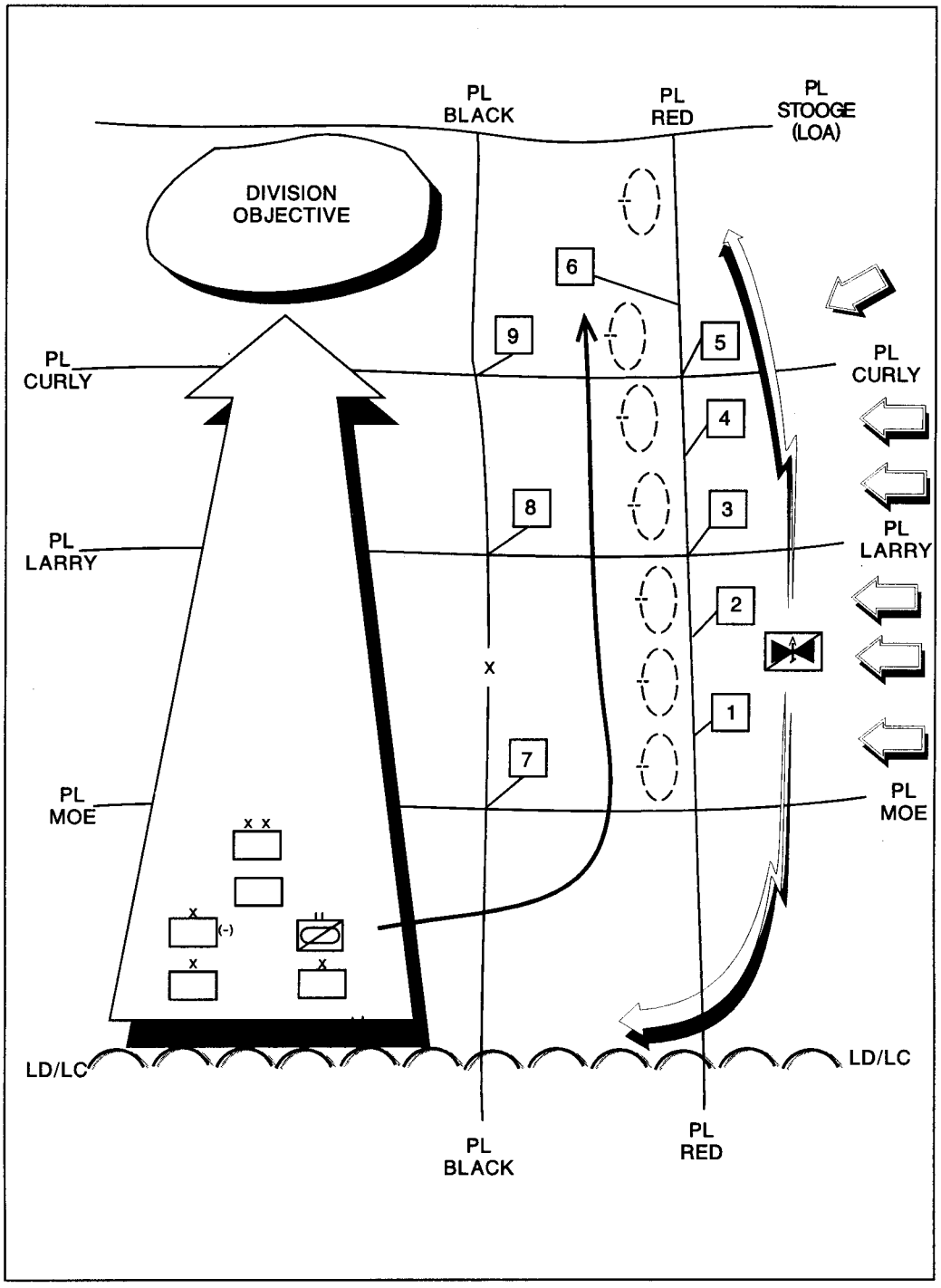

Figure 4-17. Moving flank guard (method two).

The squadron regulates movement along the route of advance by the pace of the protected force, distance to the objective, and the enemy situation. There are three methods of movement that the squadron may use:

- Successive bounds.
- Alternate bounds.
- Continuous marching.

Figure 4-18 summarizes these methods. If the protected force stops, the squadron occupies blocking positions. As the speed of the main body changes, the squadron changes movement methods. The squadron commander must not allow the squadron to fall behind the main body or present a lucrative target by remaining stationary along the route.

METHOD	CONSIDERATIONS	ADVANTAGES	DISADVANTAGES
Successive Bounds	Enemy contact likely; Main body slow; Bound by troops in succession or simultaneously	Most secure	Slowest
Alternate Bounds	Enemy contact likely; Main body slow; Troops bound from rear to front	Secure; faster than successive	
Continuous Marching	Enemy contact not likely; Main body fast; Troops remain in march column on route; Air screen on flank	Fastest	Least secure

Figure 4-18. Flank guard movement.

If the squadron becomes overextended, the squadron commander informs the main body commander and recommends one of the following courses of action:

- Reinforce the squadron.
- Reduce the squadron's area of responsibility.
- Screen a portion of the area and guard the rest.

The squadron does not needlessly overextend itself by continuing to occupy positions that have been passed by the rear of the protected force.

REARGUARD

A rear guard protects the exposed rear of the main body. This may occur during offensive operations when the protected force breaks contact with the FLOT or during retrograde operations. The rear guard deploys and defends for both moving and stationary main bodies. The critical tasks listed for the stationary flank guard apply. The rear guard for a moving force displaces to successive battle positions along phase lines in depth as the main body moves. The nature of enemy contact determines the method of displacement.

Establishing the rear guard during retrograde operations may be done in two ways. The squadron may relieve other units in place along the FLOT as they move to the rear. Alternatively, the squadron may establish a position in depth behind the main body and pass those forces through. Chapter 8 discusses retrograde operations.

Section IV. Cover

A covering force accomplishes all the tasks of screening and guard forces. Additionally, a covering force operates apart from the main body to develop the situation early and deceives, disorganizes, and destroys enemy forces. Unlike screening or guard forces, a covering force is tactically self-contained and capable of operating independently of the main body. Cover may be performed as an offensive or defensive mission. A covering force, or portions of it, will often become decisively engaged with enemy forces; therefore, the covering force must have substantial combat power to engage the enemy and still accomplish its mission.

The requirements placed upon the covering force, the command and control structure necessary for the forces involved, and the large areas of operations involved require an adequate level of command for successful accomplishment. The armored cavalry regiment is organized and equipped to conduct covering force operations. It normally forms the central element of the corps commander's covering force. Should the division be required to establish a covering force, it does so with a reinforced brigade. The division cavalry squadron may participate as part of the division covering force performing reconnaissance or security missions. If the division sector is narrow enough, an adequately reinforced cavalry squadron may perform cover.

The covering force mission is a high frequency mission for the armored cavalry regiment; therefore, this section will concentrate on the regiment's operations. However, the principles discussed in this section apply to any unit performing a covering force mission.

A covering force performs the following functions:

- Operates beyond the artillery range of the main body. The distance from the main body is determined by METT-T factors. A reinforced regiment may act as a covering force as far as 50 to 60 kilometers from the main body.
- Develops the situation earlier than a guard force, fights longer and more often, and defeats larger enemy forces.
- Reconnoiters, screens, attacks, defends, and delays as necessary. These missions are normally performed by subordinate elements of the covering force.
- Must not allow itself to be bypassed.

A regiment can act as a covering force without reinforcement, but it is normally reinforced with combat, combat support, and combat service support assets. Reinforcements increase the distance and time the regiment can operate away from the main body as well as improve the regiment's ability to fight. Typical reinforcements are illustrated in Figure 4-19. These reinforcements typically revert to their parent organizations upon passage of the covering force.

UNIT	RELATIONSHIP	PARENT ORGANIZATION
Battalion Task Force	Attached	Division
Cavalry Squadron	Attached	Division
Attack Helicopter Battalion	OPCON	Corps
Artillery Brigade	Attached or Direct Support	Corps
Engineer Battalion	Attached or Direct Support	Corps
Air Defense Artillery (SHORAD)	Attached or Direct Support	Corps
Military Intelligence (EW)	Attached or Direct Support	Corps
Combat Service Support	Attached or Direct Support	Corps

Figure 4-19. Typical armored cavalry regiment reinforcements for the covering force.

A covering force may be offensive or defensive in nature. The nature of the cover mission reflects the type of operation conducted by the corps. All covering force operations are aggressively executed making maximum use of offensive opportunities. Cover is force oriented.

An offensive covering force seizes the initiative early for the main body commander, allowing him to attack decisively. A defensive covering force prevents the enemy from attacking at the time, place, and combat strength of his choosing. Defensive cover is intended to disrupt the enemy's attack, destroy his initiative, and set him up for defeat.

OFFENSIVE COVER

During offensive operations, a covering force may operate to the front or flanks of the main body. Offensive covering forces perform the following functions:

- Conduct reconnaissance along the main body's axis of advance.
- Deny the enemy information about the size, strength, composition and objective of the main body.
- Destroy or repel enemy reconnaissance and security zone forces.
- Develop the situation to determine enemy strengths, weaknesses, and dispositions.
- Defeat, repel, or fix enemy forces as directed by the higher commander.
- Exploit opportunities until main body forces are committed.

Advance Covering Force

An advance covering force is conducted forward of the main body and has enough combat power to—

- Locate and penetrate the security zone and forward defenses of an enemy force deployed to defend.
- Destroy enemy reconnaissance, advance guard units, and as required, the first-echelon regiments of a moving enemy force.

An advance covering force is similar to a zone reconnaissance or movement to contact. The regiment advances on a broad front, normally with all three squadrons abreast (see Figure 4-20). The distance it operates forward of the main body depends on METT-T and the intent and instructions of the main body commander.

Planning for advance covering force operations is similar to that for zone reconnaissance or movement to contact. The width of the zone to be covered, and areas or routes of special importance are determined by mission analysis and IPB. Specific missions for subordinate squadrons are determined. Squadron or battalion boundaries are then assigned. The covering force commander will retain a reserve. In the armored cavalry regiment, this reserve may be composed of the attack helicopter troops of the regimental aviation squadron or attached battalion task forces. The reserve may be centrally located and ready to deploy anywhere in the covering force zone, located in the most dangerous or critical portion of the covering force zone, or positioned to support the covering force commander's tactical scheme of maneuver by executing a specific mission. Squadron commanders normally retain their tank

company as the squadron reserve. The reserve must be prepared to attack, counterattack, or defend.

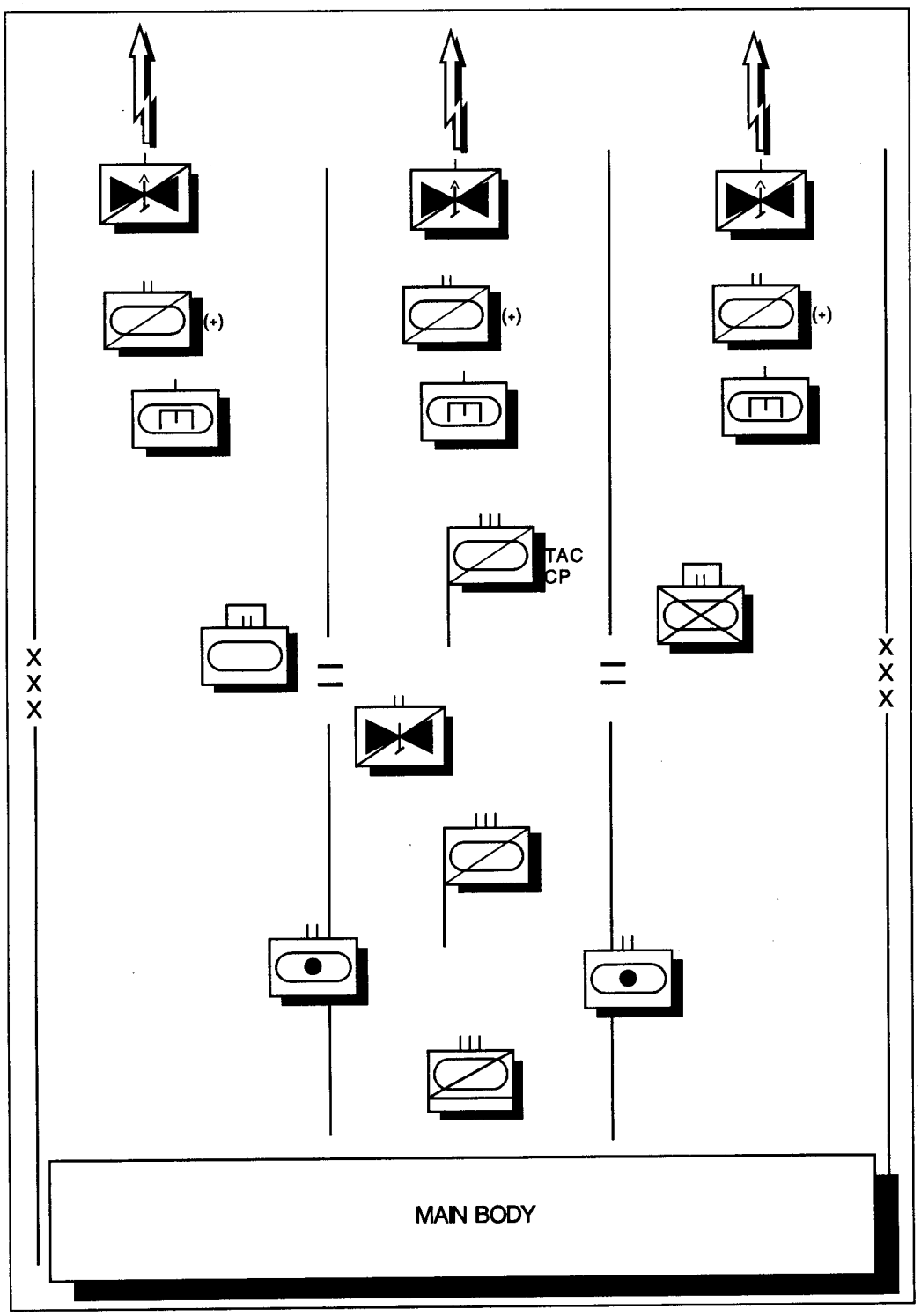

Figure 4-20. Reinforced armored cavalry regiment performing advance cover.

Air cavalry normally reconnoiters forward of advancing ground squadrons or battalions. Upon enemy contact, the air cavalry reports the enemy location to the ground unit in that zone and maintains contact. Once contact is made, the situation is rapidly developed. Supporting artillery fires are called in by air and ground scouts, and the enemy force is fixed and destroyed by fire and movement. The covering force will not bypass enemy forces without the permission of the main body commander.

When the covering force can advance no further, it defends and prepares to assist the forward passage of lines of main body units. It continues to perform close reconnaissance of enemy positions to locate gaps or vulnerable flanks. It reports enemy dispositions immediately to the main body commander so that he can exploit enemy weaknesses. The covering force may guide main body units as they attack through or around the covering force. If the covering force has done its job well, the main body commander will be able to attack the enemy's weak point at the time of his choosing with previously uncommitted main body forces.

If the regiment finds a gap in enemy defenses, it prepares to aggressively penetrate and disrupt the integrity of the defense. The regimental commander reports this to the corps commander immediately so he can divert follow-on forces. The regiment's penetration is synchronized with the arrival of other maneuver units, combat support, and combat service support to prevent its subsequent isolation and destruction by counterattacking enemy forces. Caution should not needlessly delay the regiment. The regiment is ideally organized to seize the initiative by penetrating, keeping the enemy off balance until the main body can move to reinforce the effort.

Flank Covering Force

A flank covering force is a security force operating to the flank of a moving or stationary force. A flank covering force mission is normally assigned if the main body commander perceives a significant threat to one of his flanks. The flank covering force is conducted much the same as a flank guard (see Figure 4-21). The main differences between the two missions are the scope of operations and the distance the covering force operates from the main body.

The area of operations for the flank covering force and the force to be protected are designated by the commander assigning the mission. Just as in the flank guard mission, the flank covering force must clear the area between its route of advance and the main body. It must also maintain contact with an element of the main body specified by the main body commander. This element is normally part of the advance guard for the flank division of the main body.

Air cavalry is invaluable in the conduct of a moving flank covering force. Integration of air and ground operations is essential. Air cavalry may be used to—

- Assist in clearing the area between the covering force and the main body.
- Assist in maintaining contact with the protected force.
- Screen to the front of the units conducting the flank covering force.

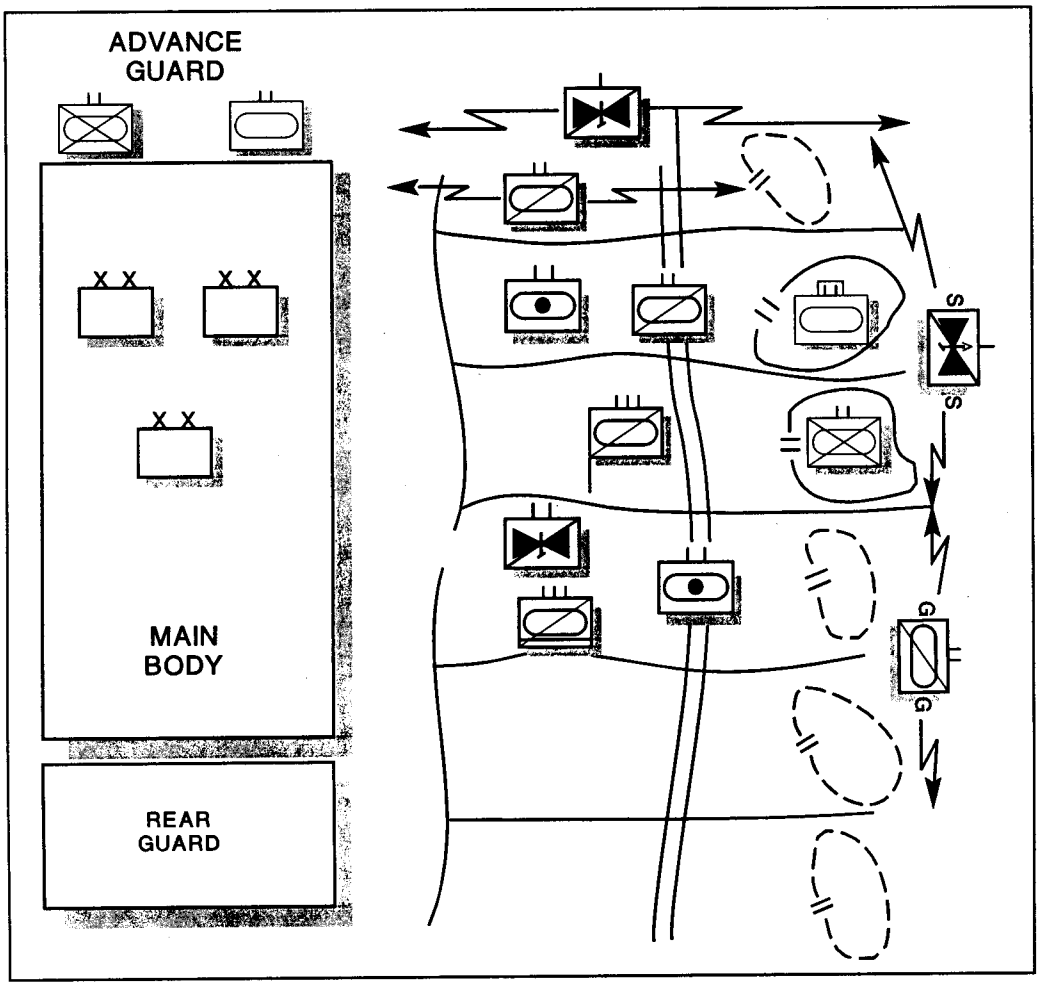

Figure 4-21. Reinforced armored cavalry regiment performing flank cover.

DEFENSIVE COVER

A defensive covering force operates to the front, flanks, or rear of a main body deploying to defend. Defensive cover is performed most frequently forward of the corps main body. The primary mission of a defensive covering force is to make the enemy reveal his main effort, disrupt his attack, and destroy his initiative. Defensive covering forces perform the following functions:

- Maintain continuous surveillance of battalion-size avenues of approach.
- Destroy or repel enemy reconnaissance and security forces in order to deceive enemy as to disposition and location of main defensive effort.

- Determine the size, strength, composition, and direction of the enemy's main effort.
- Defeat lead enemy echelons as directed.
- Force the commitment of and maintain contact with enemy second-echelon forces.

The corps commander will normally use the armored cavalry regiment as the foundation of the corps covering force. Reinforcing the regiment with additional combat, combat support, and combat service support assets will increase the length of time it can fight the covering force battle, and give it the capability to destroy larger enemy forces. The amount of augmentation the regiment receives depends on the intent of the corps commander.

The main body commander designates the forward and rear boundaries of the security force with phase lines. The lateral boundaries of the security area are normally extensions of the main body boundaries. The rear boundary of the security force is the battle handover line, which should be within range of main body artillery. The regiment designates additional control measures to help control the operation.

The regimental commander assigns sectors to each squadron. Squadron missions are normally defend in sector or delay. If certain terrain is key to the operation, battle positions may be assigned to battalion task forces. Squadron commanders have the same options in the deployment of their units. If the terrain and situation permit, the squadron boundaries should be extensions of the boundaries of corresponding main body units (divisions and brigades). This will serve to simplify the battle handover, and the transfer of control of any supporting assets from the covering force to main body units. Figure 4-22 depicts a reinforced armored cavalry regiment in a defensive covering force forward of a corps.

The regiment moves as in zone reconnaissance or movement to contact to the forward phase line in the security area. The regiment may be required to fight through enemy resistance to establish control over the security area. If heavy enemy resistance is encountered, the main body commander will normally order the covering force to occupy a new defensive line and conduct the cover. Planning for such contingencies is critical to the success of the covering force mission.

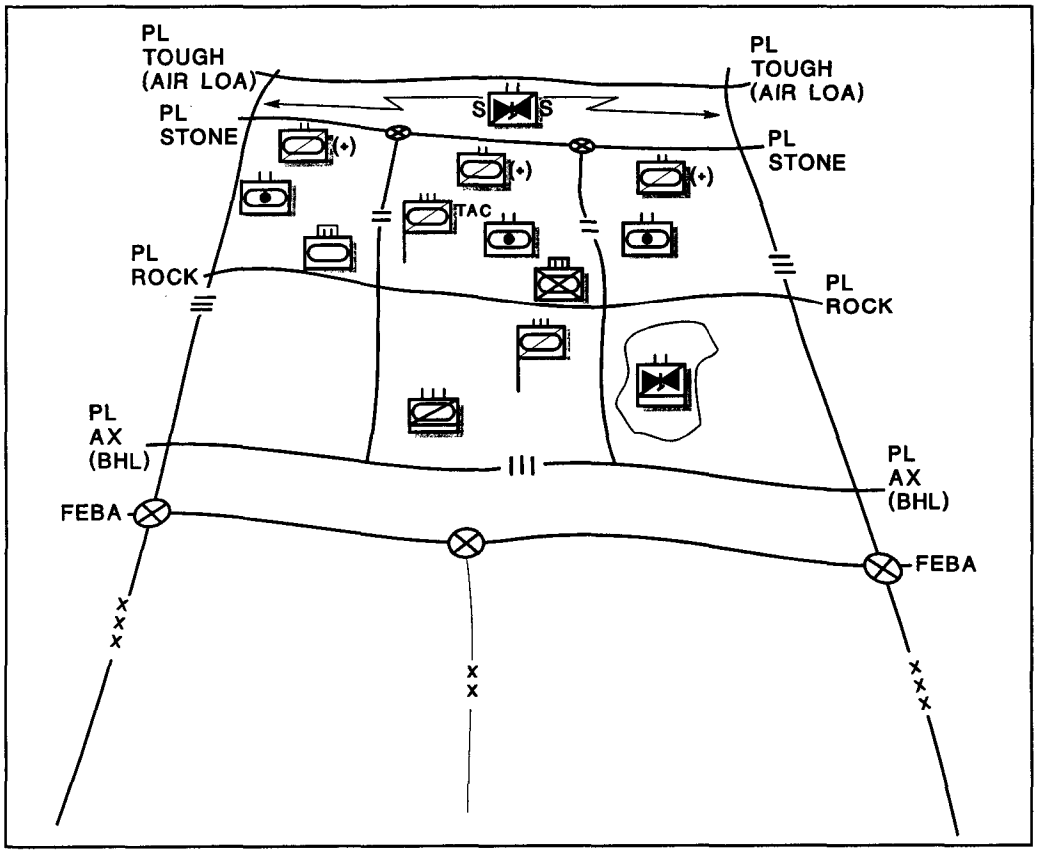

Figure 4-22. Reinforced armored cavalry regiment performing defensive cover.

Reserves are critical to a defensive cover. They allow the covering force commander to seize the initiative during the early stages of an enemy attack. The regimental commander always designates reserves. These are frequently attack helicopter battalions, attack troops of the regimental aviation squadron, and attached battalion task forces under his operational control (OPCON). In the absence of any attached or OPCON maneuver units, the regimental commander may assign contingency missions to squadron tank companies and dictate employment restrictions to squadron commanders. The tank company is the squadron commander's primary reserve force. Ground reserve forces are normally positioned in depth and prepared to execute a series of contingency missions (such as counterattack, block, support ground squadron, and assume defensive sector). Aviation reserves may counterattack in coordination with ground reserves, conduct joint air attack team operations, attack deep to delay second-echelon enemy forces, support ground squadrons, and react to unforeseen enemy actions. The regimental commander frequently structures his defense to shape an enemy penetration and then masses all available reserves to rapidly defeat an isolated enemy force.

As in any cavalry mission, integration of ground and air operations is critical to the success of the defensive covering force mission. Air cavalry can assist the reconnaissance of the security area as the regiment moves forward, screen forward of the covering force, cover areas between ground units, and assist in the

disengagement of ground units (especially valuable during the conduct of battle handover and passage of lines with the main body).

Battle handover and passage of lines is inherent in the conduct of defensive cover. This is a complex and dangerous task, and must be thoroughly planned as an integral part of the covering force mission. (See Chapter 8.)

Battle handover and passage of lines may not occur simultaneously for all covering force units. As some units begin passage, others may still be taking advantage of offensive opportunities in other parts of the security area. The regimental commander prepares to continue fighting in those portions of the security area where his forces are successful in order to set up offensive opportunities for the corps.

Flank Security Force

A defensive flank cover is performed in the same manner as defensive cover forward to the protected force.

Rear Covering Force

A rear covering force mission is similar to a rear guard mission. A rear covering force normally protects a force moving away from the enemy. The covering force deploys behind the forward maneuver units of the main body, conducts battle handover and passage of lines, and then defends or delays. Alternatively, the covering force may conduct a relief in place as part of a deception plan or to take advantage of the best defensive terrain.

The regiment deploys its squadrons abreast, generally across the sectors of defending divisions. The squadrons establish passage points and assist the rearward passage of the main body, as necessary. From that point on, the mission is conducted the same as any other defensive covering force operation. As the main body moves, the covering force displaces to subsequent phase lines in depth. If the enemy does not follow the withdrawing forces, contact may eventually be lost. Fighting a defense or delay is necessary if the enemy detects the movement and attacks.

Section V. Area Security

Area security is a form of security that includes reconnaissance and security of designated personnel, airfields, unit convoys, facilities, main supply routes, lines of communications, equipment, and critical points.

An area security force neutralizes or defeats enemy operations in a specified area. It operates in an area delineated by the headquarters assigning the area security mission. It screens, reconnoiters, attacks, defends, and delays as necessary to accomplish its mission. Area security operations may be offensive or defensive in

nature and focus on the enemy, the force being protected, or a combination of the two. Commanders may balance the level of security measures with the type and level of threat posed in the specific area; however, all-around security is essential.

Area security operations are conducted to deny the enemy the ability to influence friendly actions in a specific area or to deny the enemy use of an area for his own purposes. This may entail occupying and establishing a 360-degree perimeter around the area being secured, or taking actions to destroy enemy forces already present. The area to be secured may range from specific points (bridges, defiles) to areas such as terrain features (ridgelines, hills) to large population centers and adjacent areas.

Proper IPB is vital to provide adequate security for the assigned area. The factors of METT-T and unit capability will determine specific unit missions. Factors are as follows:

- The natural defensive characteristics of the terrain.
- Existing roads and waterways for military lines of communication and civilian commerce.
- The control of land and water areas and avenues of approach surrounding the area to be secured extending to a range beyond that of enemy artillery, rockets, and mortars.
- The control of airspace.
- The proximity to critical sites such as airfields, power generation plants, and civic buildings.

Due to the possibility of commanders tying their forces to fixed installations or sites, these types of security missions may become defensive in nature. This must be carefully balanced with the need for offensive action. Early warning of enemy activity is paramount in the conduct of area security missions and provides the commander with time to react to any threat. Proper reconnaissance and surveillance planning coupled with dismounted/mounted patrols and aerial reconnaissance is key to successful operations.

A perimeter is established when a unit must secure an area where the defense is not tied into an adjacent unit. Perimeters vary in shape depending on METT-T. If the commander determines the most probable direction of enemy attack, he may weight that part of the perimeter to cover that approach. The perimeter shape conforms to the terrain features that best use observation and fields of fire.

Perimeters are divided into troop/platoon sectors with boundaries and contact points. Mutual support and coordination between defensive elements require careful planning, positioning, and coordination due to the circular aspects of the perimeter. A screen line is established, integrating OPs, ground surveillance radar, and patrols. Tanks and antiarmor weapons systems are placed on armor-restrictive terrain and

high-speed avenues of approach. Likely enemy drop zones or landing zones are identified and kept under observation. Air cavalry assets, if available, are integrated into the reconnaissance and surveillance plan. Figure 4-23 depicts an armored cavalry squadron conducting an area security of an urban area.

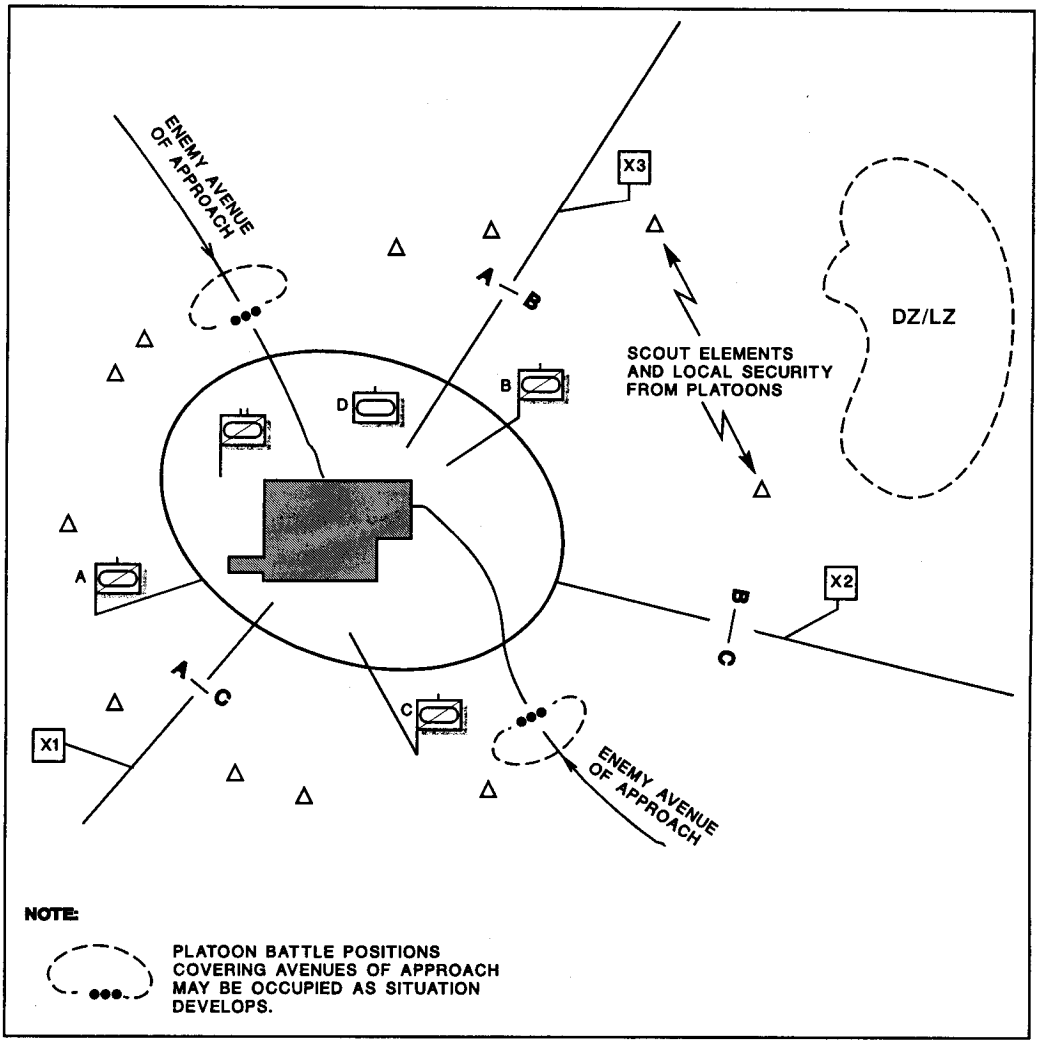

Figure 4-23. Cavalry squadron conducting area security.

Depth is provided through the use of subsequent fighting positions and mobile reserves. The mobility and firepower of armored forces will allow for rapid traverse of large areas and the ability to quickly mass to destroy any enemy penetration. The size of the reserve depends on the size of its parent unit and the tactical situation. Immediate reaction to intelligence information or any type of attack is vital. This reaction to accurate and timely intelligence may permit destruction of enemy elements prior to an attack on the area being secured. Reaction operations or commitment of the reserve is simple, planned, and rehearsed day and night.

Combat support and combat service support elements may support from within the area being secured or from another location, depending on the mission and status of the unit, the type of transport available, the weather, and the terrain.

Area security missions are conducted by platoons, cavalry troops, squadrons, and regiments who employ the techniques of screen, guard, offense, and defense, depending on the nature and purpose of the mission.

ROUTE SECURITY

Cavalry squadrons and regiments conduct route security missions to prevent enemy ground maneuver forces or insurgents from coming within direct fire range of the protected route. A route security force operates on and to the flanks of a designated route. Route security operations are defensive in nature and, unlike guard operations, are terrain oriented. A route security force prevents an enemy force from impeding, harassing, containing, seizing, or destroying traffic along the route. To accomplish this task, the force will perform the following functions:

- Conduct continuous mounted and dismounted reconnaissance of the route and key locations along the route to ensure the route is trafficable.
- Conduct sweeps of the route at irregular intervals to prevent emplacement of enemy mines along the route.
- Cordon sections of the route to search suspected enemy locations.
- Establish roadblocks/checkpoints along the route and lateral routes to stop and search vehicles and persons on the route and those entering the route.
- Occupy key locations and terrain along or near the route. If possible, establish a screen line oriented to prevent enemy direct fire weapons and observation from influencing the route.
- Aggressively conduct ground and aerial patrols to maintain route security.

While route security is a mission commonly associated with environments of conflict or peace, it may be executed under the environmental conditions of war as well. Usually due to the distances involved in securing a route, squadrons and regiments will be assigned route security missions. Subordinate ground troops could conduct the following missions:

- Screen.
- Zone, area, and route reconnaissance.
- Cordon and search.
- Establish traffic control points.
- Defend.
- Hasty attack.
- Raid.

Air troops in the regiment or squadron could conduct the following missions:

- Screen.
- Zone, area, and route reconnaissance.
- Hasty attack.
- Raid.

Enemy forces may try to sever supply routes and lines of communications by various methods. Roads, waterways, and railways may be mined; ambush sites can be located adjacent to the route being secured; or bridges and tunnels can be destroyed by demolitions. Due to the nature of this mission, very long routes may be extremely difficult to secure; however, measures can be enforced to reduce the effect of enemy forces. Figure 4-24 depicts an armored cavalry squadron conducting a route security mission.

Patrolling the route, mounted and dismounted, greatly increases the chances of detecting enemy forces before they can effectively emplace mines or demolitions, or establish ambushes or roadblocks. Patrolling is performed regularly, but patrols should not establish a routine. This helps avoid possible enemy ambushes and aids in detection of enemy forces. Patrols must be aware of probable ambush sites and choke points where roadblocks or mines and demolitions would be effective. Personnel conducting patrols must be trained in detecting mines and booby traps.

Patrols are organized with enough combat power to survive initial enemy contact. Recent enemy activity provides guidance on the organization of patrols. Patrols can be augmented with combat engineers, infantry (both light and mechanized forces), military police, or other assets, when available, to increase their combat capability. Usually, lack of combat power prohibits a patrol's ability to deal with large enemy forces; therefore, indirect fire plans and air cavalry assets should be integrated into the patrol plan at all times when available.

Roadblocks, checkpoints, and guard posts may be placed at crucial choke points (such as bridges and tunnels) to effectively prevent acts of sabotage to keep the route open and available to friendly forces. Forces stop and search vehicles and persons before they proceed. Forces do not allow vehicles to stop on or under bridges or in tunnels. Personnel maintain constant surveillance over critical checkpoints at night by use of night vision equipment integrating ground surveillance radars and sensors to cover the immediate and surrounding areas. Mining indirect approaches to sensitive areas may help lessen the chances of a ground attack. Artillery fires are planned to assist in defeating enemy attempts to influence the critical areas. Personnel construct bunkers to protect observation posts and to provide positions from which to fight until reinforced.

Air cavalry assets can assist in securing the route by conducting patrols, effectively covering large areas in a short time. Additionally, air cavalry troops can assist in maintaining the screen line or perimeter securing the route. Attack helicopter troops can be used as a quick reaction force to move rapidly to destroy enemy ground forces or to cut off enemy escape routes.

Engineers help keep the route open. Engineers assist in locating and clearing mines, clearing terrain at potential ambush sites, and repairing damage to roads and trails. Engineers can also assist in preparing defensive systems around critical areas and choke points.

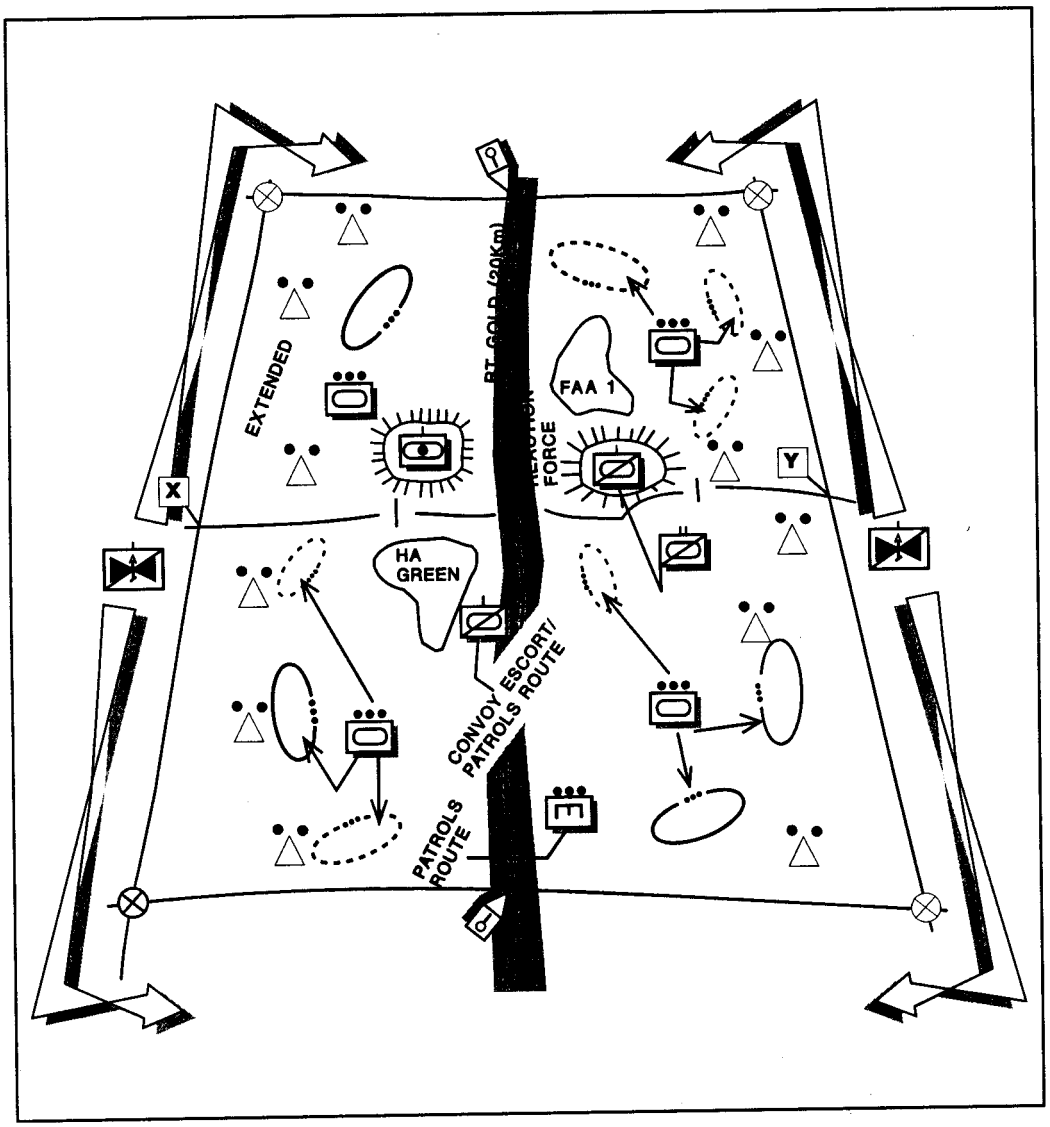

Figure 4-24. Cavalry squadron conducting route security.

CONVOY SECURITY

"No matter whether we travel in big parties or little ones, each party has to keep a scout twenty yards ahead twenty yards on each flank and twenty yards in the rear, so the main body can't be surprised and wiped out."

Major Robert Rogers, 1759
Standing Order #12
Rogers Rangers

Convoy security operations are conducted when insufficient friendly forces are available to continuously secure lines of communication in an area of operations. They may also be conducted in conjunction with route security operations. A convoy security force operates to the front, flanks, and rear of a convoy element moving along a designated route. Convoy security operations are offensive in nature and orient on the force being protected.

A convoy security mission has certain critical tasks that guide planning and execution. To protect a convoy, the security force must accomplish the following critical tasks:

- Reconnoiter the route the convoy will travel.
- Clear the route of obstacles or positions from which the enemy could influence movement along the route.
- Provide early warning and prevent the enemy from impeding, harassing, containing, seizing, or destroying the convoy.

Convoy security operations are performed as a minimum by a cavalry troop. Cavalry troops are well suited to the requirements of protecting a convoy due to their organic reconnaissance capability and combat power. The cavalry troop may be reinforced with engineers and military police. METT-T considerations, such as restrictive terrain and limited time, may dictate a coordinated effort with air cavalry assets.

The convoy security force is organized into three or four elements (see Figure 4-25):

- Reconnaissance element. The reconnaissance element performs tasks associated with zone and route reconnaissance forward of the convoy.
- Screen element. The screen element provides early warning and security to the convoy's flanks and rear.

- Escort element. The escort element provides close-in protection to the convoy. May also provide a reaction force to assist in repelling or destroying enemy contact.
- Reaction force. Provides firepower and support to the elements above in order to assist in developing the situation or conducting a hasty attack. May also perform duties of the escort element.

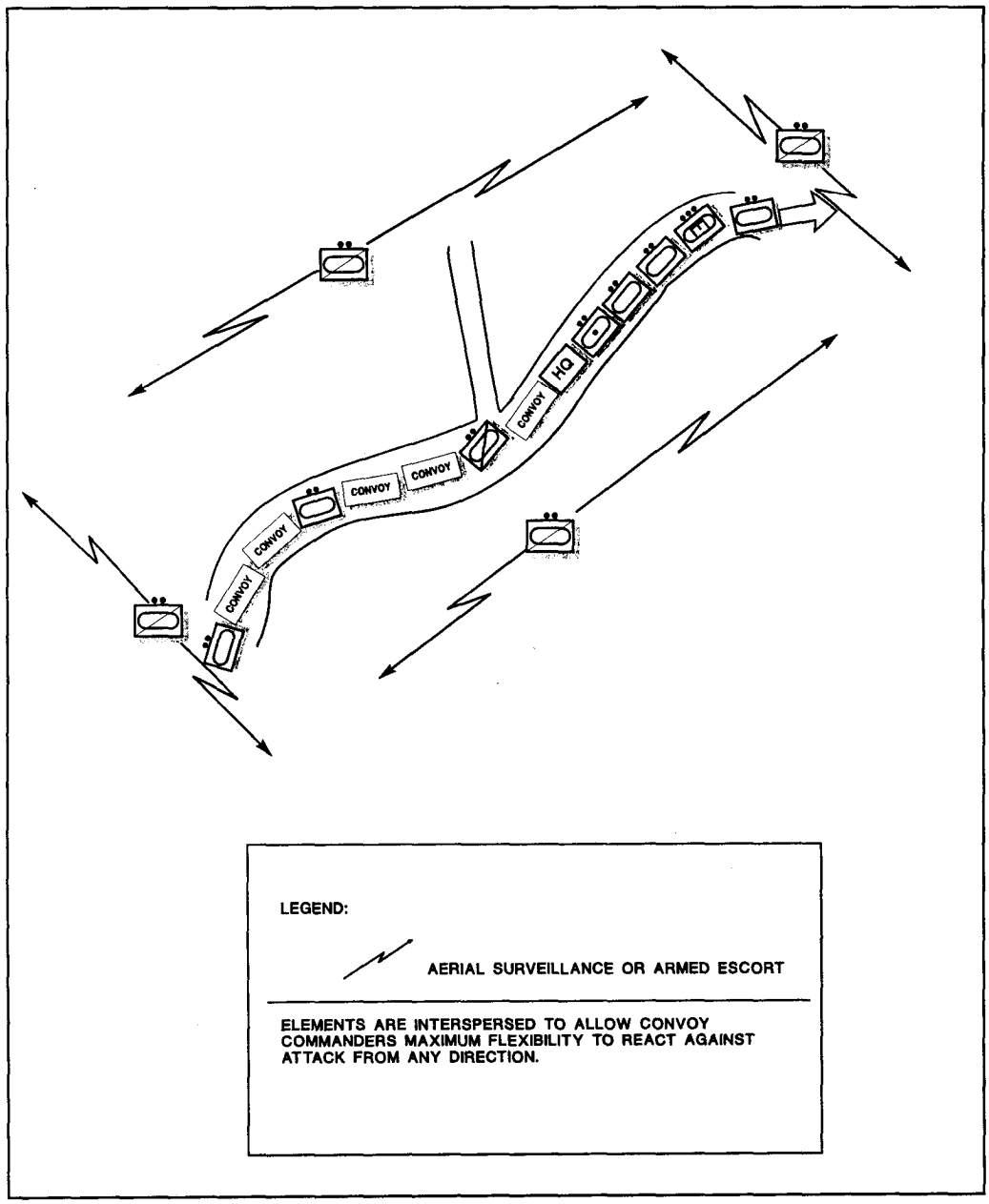

Figure 4-25. Cavalry troop conducting convoy security.

Commanders plan and execute all movements of troops and supplies as tactical operations. Convoy security operations are conducted in high risk areas that are not controlled by friendly forces; medium risk areas where friendly forces operate but have been frequented by insurgents; and low risk areas where the friendly forces have control of the area. Due to the inherent dangers of convoy operations, emphasis is on extensive security measures. These security measures include the following:

- Secrecy when planning and disseminating orders, strict noise and light discipline during movement, and varying routes and schedules.
- Coordination with supporting air units to ensure an understanding of air support used to assist the movement, both in enforcing preventive measures and in conducting close combat operations.
- Fire support elements that provide close and continuous fire support for the movement.
- Maneuver for counterambush actions. This includes contingency plans for immediate actions against an ambush and use of formations, which allow part of the column to be in position to maneuver against an ambush force.
- Communications and coordination with supporting units and units along the route, adjacent host-nation forces, and higher headquarters, to include airborne radio relay.
- Various locations for leaders, communications, medical support, and weapons systems within the movement formation.
- Questions asked of the local civilians along the movement route for intelligence information, to include possible enemy ambush sites.

Convoy security missions generate unique requirements that the commander and staff must take into account when formulating a plan. The convoy security commander and his subordinates are briefed on the latest information regarding the enemy situation and the area through which the convoy will pass. The commander formulates his plans and issues his orders, to include formation, intervals between echelons and vehicles, rate of travel, and detailed plans for actions if an enemy force is encountered. Since there is seldom time to issue orders during an ambush, leaders plan the escort element and reaction force element actions should an ambush occur. These actions should be rehearsed prior to movement and executed as drills in the event of enemy contact.

A quick reaction force may be maintained by the higher headquarters command. The quick reaction force will remain at REDCON 1, monitoring the progress of the convoy and ready to respond if the convoy encounters an enemy unit that is greater than the security element's capability. Enemy forces must be convinced that ambushes will produce a fast, relentless, hard-hitting response. The ready reaction forces may have to be moved forward so they can respond quickly if the convoy is moving a long distance.

Communications are vital to the success of movements. Leaders plan radio communication and ensure availability between convoy elements and indirect fire support assets, air cavalry assets, and with units and population centers in the areas along the route of movement. Visual and sound signals are prearranged. These signals include colored smoke, identification panels, and whistles or horn signals. While limited, these communications means are effective when prearranged signals and responses are understood and rehearsed.

Units must ensure artillery and mortar support is planned to support the entire route of movement. Units may have mortars integrated into the escort element itself or may have indirect fire support provided by artillery elements that are positioned along the route. Coordination with fire direction centers (FDC) that can provide fire along the route of movement ensures that FISTs can enter the FDC net, send routine location reports, and request and adjust fires. Leaders must coordinate call signs, frequencies, areas of employment, schedules of movement, and target numbers prior to the convoy movement.

Air cavalry assets, if available, can participate in the convoy security operation by screening the convoy movement as the element moves along the route of march or by assisting in clearing the route ahead of the convoy in conjunction with the route reconnaissance element. Air cavalry can also assist by controlling indirect fire and directing on-call close air support. The support air cavalry unit must know the maneuver intentions of the ground element should contact with the enemy occur.

Convoy security operations in an urban environment or built-up area require different emphasis and techniques than those in rural areas. The population density and characteristics of the area require the use of nonlethal weapons and the careful application of weapons of destruction. When applying minimum-essential force to minimize loss of life and destruction of property, leaders must conduct detailed planning, coordination, and control. Convoys, whenever possible, should move through populated areas during times that these areas are least congested and therefore less dangerous to the security of the convoy. Convoy operations may require assistance from military police or local police and other government agencies to secure the route prior to the convoy entering the built-up area.

The squadron S4 and unit commanders must carefully plan for combat service support in convoy security operations. Fuel and maintenance elements should be included in the convoy itself or prepositioned in secure areas along the route. A detailed precombat inspection must be performed to ensure that vehicles are full of fuel, PMCS have been performed, and potential maintenance problems are eliminated before the convoy starts movement. Casualty evacuation must be planned in detail along the entire movement route. Coordination must occur and be maintained between the convoy security force, the squadron aid station, the squadron command post, the CTCP, and designated units along the route to ensure immediate medical support is available. Due to the possibility of operating over extended distances from the squadron aid station and regimental clearing facility, aeromedical evacuation is the preferred means of evacuation and must be planned and rehearsed in detail.